

THE SECRET
LETTERS
AND
NEGOTIATIONS
OF THE MARESCHAL
D'ESTRADES,
MONSIEUR
COLBERT,
AND THE COUNT
D'AVAUX;

The *French* King's Plenipotentiary-
Ambassadors in the Treaty of
NIMEGUEN.

Together with His Most Christian Ma-
jesty's and Monsieur *de Pomponne's* An-
swers and Instructions.

V O L. II.

LONDON:

Printed for *J. Morphew* near Stationers-Hall,
and *J. Woodward* in St. Christopher's Church-
Yard, behind the *Royal-Exchange*.

M. DCC. X.



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MDCCLX.



in the
m
the King.

We shall not venture upon anything you will

now, with the Army; For as you will have

March of the Dutch Army; For as you will have

of the Dutch Army; For as you will have

who has a more particular Account of it, did tell

us, that he would give us a more particular

Account of it, did tell us, that he would give

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Account of it, did tell us, that he would give

in their Negotiations, we have been able to learn of the
more being long, we have been able to learn of the
that we wish for nothing more, than to give full
Satisfaction to the King.

We durst not venture upon troubling you till
now, with what we have been able to learn of the
March of the *Dutch Army*: For, as you will have
Advice of it directly from the Country of *Liege*
and *Maastricht*, and that, besides this, the *Marfchall*,
who has a more particular Account of it, did tell
us, that he would give immediate Advice of it to
His Majesty; what we were able to write, could
not be either so secure, or so quick. However,
what we are able to learn from divers Places,
is, that the *Prince of Orange* has promis'd to the
Duke of *Zell*, to keep his Army in the Field, till
the *14th of November*; that he intends to put a
Garrison into *Liege*, and fortify and make Intrench-
ments about the Suburbs, on the side of *Maastricht*,
notwithstanding the Opposition of the Populace;
and that he intends to seize upon all the Posts near
that Place, to incommode and streighten the
Garrison of *Maastricht* the more this Winter. But
every Thing that is divulg'd here, concerning the
Designs of that Prince, being very uncertain, we
will not pretend to give you this as a Certainty.

Monfieur de la Haye has written to us, that the
Electer of *Bavaria* is surpriz'd, that he has not re-
ceiv'd the Passports he desir'd three Months ago;
and that he has requested him to be inform'd of
us, what it is, that has retarded it. We don't
know, Sir, what Answer to give, and therefore
most humbly beg of you to acquaint him with the
King's Sentiments, or else, let us know what An-
swer we shall send him. I am, Sir, most sin-
cerely and faithfully, Yours,

The Honour to write to you, to inform you of the
Moment the whole Extent of my Duty obliges me
this time. I am, Sir, most faithfully, Yours,
L. E. T.

of the Mareſc. d'Eſtrades, &c. 5

LETTER

From the King to the Ambaſſadors.

Dated October 17. 1676.

Cousin, Meſſieurs Colbert and Count d' Ausux ;
I have receiv'd your Diſpatches of the 10th
and the 6th of this Month, wherein I found a
very exact Account, you have given me, of the
Confidence, either true or pretended, Sir William
Temple has thought fit to entrust you with, con-
cerning the Sentiments he observ'd in the Prince
of Orange, after his meeting him at Soefdyk. He is
too much devoted to the Interest of that Prince,
to imagine that he has made a frank Confession to
you, and therefore, whatever he has told you,
concerning the Resolution of that Prince, to re-
venge his Diſgrace before Maestricht, in carrying
on the War more vigorously the next Year, and
the Efforts of ſome other Princes againſt me, muſt
be look'd upon rather as a Contrivance to urge
you into a Diſcovery of the Conditions of Peace
I am willing to grant, than as an Effect of his
real Opinion, concerning the Strength of my
Enemies.

There ſeems much of a Contrivance, in the
Secret he has ask'd of one of you. The Excluſion
of his Collegues, and this pretended Confidence,
ſavour more of a premeditated Deſign to diſunite
you, than of a true ſincere Confidence.

But, as I have told you already before, I think
myſelf ſo well aſſur'd of that entire Union, which
I deſire ſhould be betwixt you, and which I pro-
miſe myſelf, will continue ſo for ever, that I
don't in the leaſt fear, you will ever enter ſepa-

6 *Letters and Negotiations*

rately, without the Privy of each other, into any such-like secret Conferences, when they are desired of you; because, when you confer of these Matters with joint Consent, you will be the better able to dive into the Designs of those, that make it their Endeavours to impose upon, and disunite you; so that you have done very well, in agreeing together, that Monsieur Colbert should not promise Sir William Temple, to keep secret, on Account of their ancient Friendship, what he thought fit to communicate to him, concerning the Sentiments of the Prince of Orange. 'Tis my Opinion, that he may give him his Word upon that Account, without any Intention of keeping it; because, under this Pretence, he may be able to get out of him many things, which he would scarce communicate to another. As to what relates to what has been communicated to you, by the Mediators, of the Pretension of the Dukes of Lundenburgh, relating to the Title of Ambassador to be given to their Ministers; I am not in the least surpris'd, to understand, that the English Ambassadors are not very forward in Supporting this Pretension, no more than the States-General shew much Inclination for it; this being a Point, in which the common Interest of all the crown'd Heads, as well as of those States, who are in Possession of the Right of Sending Ambassadors, is concern'd, for this Character would in some Measure be debas'd, if it were communicated to all the Princes that enjoy the Rights of Sovereignty.

But as Custom is the chief Rule in Things of this Nature, 'tis to Custom we have recourse also in this Point.

There is no Instance to be given, that ever the Ministers of the Princes of the Empire, excepting those of the Electors, were invest'd with the

Title

Title of Ambassadors, or have receiv'd the same Honours that are due to that Character. The Treaties of *Munster*, *Frankfort* and *Cologne*, furnish us with Examples sufficient of this Kind of late Years, and the Pretension, that is started now, did never so much as fall under any Debate, in the before-said Assemblies; so that I find, this is chiefly started by the Duke of *Hanover*, and that the pressing Instances made by the Princes of that House, are the Effects only of those Pretensions, which have been reviv'd again, for a considerable time since.

He founds his Pretension altogether upon this, that the Right of Legation (the *Jus Legationis*) is expressly reserv'd to the Princes of the Empire, by the Treaty of *Munster*; but can there be a more weak Foundation, than this is? This Word, which, in the *Latin*, signifies any Legation in general; such as Sovereign Princes have Right to send to foreign Princes, does not necessarily imply, as they pretend, the Title of Ambassador, unto which, taking it according to the *French* Signification, are annex'd divers Advantages, far above those belonging to simple Envoys; so that, here the Point in Question is not concerning the Liberty the Princes of *Germany* have of Treating of Peace, of making War and Alliances, which is not call'd in Question; and this is the true Interpretation, which ought to be put upon the *Jus Legationis*, which is actually reserv'd to them. The Question here is only concerning the Rank their Ministers ought to claim; for, taking the Word *Legati*, and extending it as far as to the Title of Ambassadors, they ought to enjoy the Privilege of the Right-Hand, and of such other Prerogatives, as Ambassadors us'd to give to one another; whereas this Word must be apply'd only to that of Envoys, who have the same Power of Treating.

but only are a Degree below the Ambassadors. This is the Right, that has at all times been enjoy'd by the Princes of the Empire; and it is even for the Interest of the crown'd Heads, not to introduce any Alteration in that Respect; but as to this Pretension, I am fully persuaded, it will not meet with any real or very strong Encouragement, no more from the King of *Spain*, than from the *States-General*; so that, after having represented the Difficulty of Admitting of such a Pretension, it will be an easie matter for you to decline it, and to let it drop as it were of itself, seeing the Mediators themselves are not likely to take much Pains in Maintaining it.

I thought it, nevertheless, very requisite to give you full Instructions, concerning this Affair; tho' it seems as if the Duke of *Hanover* himself began already to be sensible of the Weakness of his Pretension, because his chief Minister has told the *Sieur Rousseau*, that he would rest contented with the Quality of Ambassador being inserted in the Passports, without your being oblig'd to give them the Right Hand; these being such Contrarieties, as are irreconcilable, because to this time, that Honour has always been annex'd to the Character of Ambassador.

I approve of your Resolution, not to stir without the Gates of *Nimeguen*, for some time, lest you should expose yourselves to some Violence, and give an Opportunity, by this means, to *Spain*, and the Prince of *Orange*, to break off the Negotiation. The Neutrality, which I have allow'd you to grant at half a Leagues distance from that City, will, perhaps, soon put an End to this Constraint.

As I did approve, that Monsieur *Colbert* should promise to keep Sir *William Temple's* Secret, I am also of Opinion, that the *Mareschal d'Estrades* shall engage his Word also to the Prince of *Orange*, pursuant

of the Marqse. d' Estrades, &c. 9

pursuant to the Request made him by the Sieur

All these separate Intelligences will be of good Use, when they are reported and debated upon amongst you. I pray God, Confin, to keep you in his holy Protection, and you, Messieurs Colbert and Count d'Avaux, under his holy Protection.

Written at Versailles, the 17th of October, 1676. Sign'd LOUIS; and underneath, ARNAULD.

LETTER

From Monsieur de Pomponne to the
Ambassadors.

Dated October 17. 1676.

Gentlemen,

YOU see by His Majesty's Dispatches, that tho' he has remov'd that Scruple, which you had, (being the Effect of that strict Correspondence that is among you) that you could not charge yourselves with any Secret which was not communicated to all of you, he is nevertheless of Opinion, that you may take separately such Measures, to dive into the Secrets of others, as, when compar'd together among you, may be of singular Use for his Service, and the good Success of your Negotiation.

The Prince of Portugal has offer'd his Mediation to the King, by a Letter written to His Majesty, and at the same time, has offer'd the same Office to the Court of Madrid. The King has given him to understand, that he would be very well pleas'd to accept of his Mediation, but that he was oblig'd, in all respects, not to engage

in any Thing of that Nature, without having before-hand consulted with the King of Sweden about it.

Accordingly, His Majesty has invited him to communicate his Intentions to that Crown, and at the same time, has writ about it to the Marquis de Feuquieres, in order to communicate the whole Matter to the King of Sweden. Monsieur Courvin has Advice, that the Prince of Portugal has writ about it to the King of England, and that that Prince would be very glad to see him jointly in the Mediation of Peace.

The Refusal of the Duke de Villabermosa, to grant Passports to Monsieur de Marseille, is so unsupportable, and so little suitable to the honourable Proceedings of His Majesty, who has given Passports to all the Ministers of His Enemies, who had occasion to pass thro' his Kingdom, that he is resolv'd to refuse and revoke all those he has granted hitherto; unless the Duke de Villabermosa does grant these that are desired of him.

There are, besides these, some others, in the behalf of whom, His Majesty desires you should employ your good Offices with the Mediators, to obtain Passports for them, viz. for the Marquis de Vincy, his Envoy-Extraordinary in the Lower Germany, who, at present, is in the Swedish Army in Pomerania. He has desired Permission of the King, to return Home, and the King being willing to grant his Request, intends to send, in his Place, the Count de Rebenac, the Son of the Marquis de Feuquieres.

It will therefore be necessary, if you think fit, to require Passports, by the Intercession of the Ambassadors-Mediators, for the Return of the one, and the Journey of the other, from the Governour of Flanders, the States-Generall, from the Duke of Neuburg, the Elector of Cologne, from

of the Mareſchal Eſtrades, &c. 11

from Munſter, the Dukes of Lauenburgh, Zell, Ofna-
brag, and Wolfenbuttel, from the King of Denmark,
the Elector of Brandenburg, as likewiſe from the
Emperor.

I have written alſo to ſeveral others, to deſire
and procure them, but in ſuch Caſes as theſe, one
can't eaſily employ too many, becauſe in thoſe
Courts, they are uſ'd to make Abundance of
Difficulties and Delays, quite otherwiſe than
what is practis'd in France, upon ſuch-like Occa-
ſions, where Things of this Nature are diſpatch'd
with all poſſible Eaſe and Frankneſs.

If you are able to obtain them, I deſire you to
take care to ſend them to Madam Bidai at Ham-
burgh, in order to diſpatch them farther to the
Marquis de Viſry, and at the ſame time, you may
ſend to me thoſe for the Count de Rebenac. I am,
Gentlemen, with all poſſible Sincerity, yours.

LETTER

From the King to the Ambaſſadors.

Dated October 22. 1676

Couſin, Meſſieurs Colbert, and Count d'A-
vaux; The Account you have given me, by
your joint Letter of the ninth of this Month,
of the Conference one of you had with the Sieur
Olivenhans, and of the Advice that Ambaſſador
had given you, that the Prince of Orange might
be dispos'd to engage the States-General into a ſe-
parate Peace, in caſe I would agree, that Me-
ſſicks ſhould be demolish'd and deliver'd up to
him; makes me ſend theſe preſent Inſtructions
to you.

I don't imagine, that Monsieur *Olivenkran* is altogether well inform'd in what he told you; but as I have often intimated to you, in my former Instructions, that there is nothing at this time, I think of greater Consequence for my Service, than to draw the Prince of *Orange*, and the *States-General*, from the *Spanish* Interest, by a separate Treaty, I am the more willing to acquaint you more particularly with my Intentions, upon that Subject; and this I judge to be the more necessary, at the present Conjunction, when the Negotiation is to be open'd with the *States-General*, on the first of *November* next, and that the Assembly of the Province of *Holland* is to be on the 10th.

As in this Assembly, there will probably be taken such Resolutions, as will have a great Influence upon the Resolutions of the *States*, either for War or Peace, it is of great Consequence to us, that their Minds may be prepossess'd with an Opinion of my favourable Intentions at this time, to afford them very considerable Advantages in the Treaty, and to revive my former Friendship with them.

So that I would have you manage Matters so with the *Dutch* Ambassadors, in the first Conference they are to have with you, in case, as they have told you, they would not stay for the Arrival of the Ministers of their Allies, beyond the first of *November*, to begin the Negotiations, as not to slip any Opportunity that naturally offers itself, to acquaint them with my favourable Inclinations, that so they may give an Account of it to the Province of *Holland*, at their next Assembly. If you find them in the same Sentiments, as Monsieur *Olivenkran* told you, to have a Regard only to their particular Interest, without troubling themselves much about that of *Spain*, 'tis then time to open yourselves more particularly

cularly to them, and that chiefly upon two Points, viz. that of *Maestricht*; and that of Commerce.

In the first, they will be able to repair their Losses sustain'd in the War, and in the second, they will think to secure themselves in time of Peace.

My Will is, that you be not sparing in giving them a great deal of Hopes upon both Accounts, and to engage them to enter more and more into a Treaty with you. In case you find them give ear to what you have propos'd, you may tell them, that I am willing to restore *Maestricht* to them demolish'd, if they will conclude a separate Peace with me, without staying for the *Spaniards*; and if you find them dispos'd to embrace that Offer, you must endeavour to accomplish the Work, by giving them Assurances of a Treaty of Commerce.

This being the Article, which will touch them most, I give you leave to represent this Point to them, in the best Colours, and to the utmost Advantage; by telling them, that I am willing to renew the Treaty with them, that was concluded betwixt us, in the Year 1662. I think, they can't well insist upon any thing more than this; but in case they begin to talk to you of certain Contraventions of this Treaty, you may then tell them, that I am ready to make a Regulation with 'em, upon that Head, within the Space of three Months.

To be short in the matter; I desire you would flatter them, at the Opening of this Negotiation, with every thing that may induce them to imagine, that they will reap more Advantages, by a separate Treaty with me; and with your utmost Dexterity, innuendoes to them, how inclinable you are to do all that in you lies, to procure them a beneficial and advantageous Peace, for the Re-establishment of their Commerce, and Reviving their ancient Alliance with me.

These

These Ambassadors, thus inspir'd with your Insinuations, when they come into the Assembly of the Province of *Holland*, may do us considerable Service there. The Prince of *Orange*, as well as the *States-General*, being, in all probability, quite weary of supporting *Spain* by themselves, when the *Spaniards* take so little Care for their own Preservation; the People being exhausted with Taxes, and by the Interruption of Trade; the Necessity there is of Imposing new Taxes, to defray the Expences of the War, for the next Year; will, at this Conjunction, dispose them the sooner to hearken to the Propositions you are to make them. 'Tis in View of this, that I desire you would not neglect any thing, which you judge may make them relish them the better, and improve the Discontents of the *Dutch*, concerning the Remissness of the *Spaniards*, in paying the Subsidies promis'd to the Allies, as well as the Expences of the Fleet sent to *Messina*; as likewise, to prevent the Places of the *Netherlands* from falling into our Hands, by sending them timely Supplies of Money.

I do therefore promise myself, that you will leave no Stone unturn'd, even during those few Days you may be in Conference with the *Dutch* Ambassadors, to make them sensible, beyond all dispute, that in case they will enter into a particular Treaty with me, they will thereby obtain the Restitution of *Maestricht*, the Renewing of my Alliance, and the Re-establishing of their Commerce. I pray God, Cousin, to keep you in his holy Protection, and you, Messieurs *Colbert* and Count *Estoux*, under his holy Protection.

Written at *Kenjailes*, the 22d Day of *Oct.* 1676.
Sign'd LOUIS; and underneath, ARNAULD.

L. B. T.

of the Marefr. d' Estrades, &c. 15

LETTER
From Monsieur de Pomponne,
the Ambassadors.

Dated October 22. 1676.

Gentlemen,

I have scarce time to send this Billet, with the Letter written to you by His Majesty; it being his Pleasure, that no time should be lost, in dispatching his Resolutions, by the ordinary Courier, who is just upon his Departure, they being of great Consequence for his Service; so that I can't send you a particular Answer to your Letters of the 9th and 13th of this Month. I am, Gentlemen, yours entirely.

LETTER
From the Ambassadors to the King.

Dated October 23. 1676.

SIR,

WE have been twice with the Mediators, to give them an Account of the Villages that may be comprehended within the Limits of the Half-League, for which Your Majesty has been pleas'd to grant a Neutrality round this City. Upon our taking a View of this District of Land, we found, on the Right of Nimoguen, as you go down the River Wael, that the Parishes of Wiert and Huel are within that Compass, as well as the Parish of Nierlofsch, where Sir Lionel Jenkins has

his House, and is even some small Distance farther. We have also included, within these Limits, the Village of *Hattert*, and the House of *Wirttemberg*, these being at the same distance from *Nimeguen*, as *Neerbosch*; so that from *Hattert*, we draw a Line to the *Wael*, which comprehends also the Hundred of *Merwick*, and the Parishes of *Beek* and *Albergen*.

These, Sire, are the Villages and Places, that are within the exact Compass of half a League of this Part of the Country, which we told the Mediators, was in our Power, pursuant to Your Majesty's Orders, to grant; but we did not come to a full Determination in the matter, because there are four Villages still remaining, which are mark'd in the Plan we send to Your Majesty, which the Mediators insist upon, to have them comprehended also with the rest. As for *Buckingen*, which is below the City, it is of no Consequence to Your Majesty, because 'tis impossible for any Parties to approach it; for we ourselves can't go thither on Horse-back; so we would not have insisted upon this, had it not been for the other three, which lie above *Nimeguen*, viz. *Perfingen*, *Oy* and *Heleskom*, and are at the same Distance with the first, which are desired also, upon the same Account, by the Mediators. What made us not to comply with their Desires, was, that the Country of *Clever* being under Contribution, the Parties may, perhaps, be able to come to these three, tho' not without much difficulty, the Country being full of Canals; and, as they are near an Hours distance from the City, which does not amount to much more than half a League in this Country, we did not think fit, nevertheless, to transgress, in the least, the Limits prescribed to us, by Your Majesty's Orders; neither is there any Reason, that what has been done, in Respect to

Sir

Sir *Lionel Jenkins's* Houſe, ſhould be drawn into Conſequence, in regard to others. *M 100 Y and*

However, Sire, ſince the Mediators have urg'd this Matter in very preſſing Terms, we could not forego to acquaint Your Maſteſty with their Reaſons: Theſe are, that Your Maſteſty having granted half a League, they are of Opinion, that Your Maſteſty would not be againſt including within the Compaſs of the Neutrality, thoſe Villages, which are not quite an Hour's travelling from the City, which tho' it makes a little more than half a League, it is much leſs than a whole League; ſo that they did not queſtion Your Maſteſty would grant ſuch a Thing as this, in Reſpect to the King of *England* their Maſter.

They add unto this, that *Perſingen* being not above five hundred Paces diſtant from *Oy* and *Beek*, and *Heleſkom* lying upon the ſame Line, they are of Opinion, that the Neutrality of the others alſo might ſuffer ſome Interruption, in caſe the Parties ſhould come to do Military Execution ſo near, and within ſight of *Nimeguen* (for theſe two Villages may be ſeen from the Ramparts) whereas, if they were comprehended within the Neutrality, every thing, that is within View of *Nimeguen*, would be included in it. *1092*

We take the Liberty to add unto this, that theſe three Villages are the only ones on that ſide, all the reſt belonging to *Gluers*; ſo that in caſe any Parties from *Maſtricht* ſhould meet there, with ſome of the Enemies, this would daily produce Skirmiſhes, within ſight of *Nimeguen*, and of the Ambaſſadors reſiding there for the Peace. *111*

It happens alſo, very fortunately, that theſe three Villages, which are not within the Neutrality, are juſt at half a Leagues diſtance from thoſe within the Compaſs of the Neutrality: We wait for the Honour of Your Maſteſty's Orders upon this Point.

Sire,

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Sire, we will not fail to make use of all the Reasons Your Majesty has done us the Honour to impart to us, whenever we shall hear any thing more of the Demands of the Dukes of *Lunenburgh*, concerning the Title of Ambassador, but hope, that this Pretension will drop of its own accord.

We will also most exactly keep to Your Majesty's Directions, in promising to keep Secrecy to all such as will require it of us; but will not fail to communicate to you, with the utmost Fidelity, every thing that shall come to our Knowledge. We are, with the utmost Respect, Sire, &c.

LETTER

From the Ambassadors to Monsieur de Pomponne.

Dated October 23. 1676.

SIR,

WE have given the King an Account of our Thoughts, in relation to what Sir *William Temple* requir'd from one of us, viz. to keep his Secrets: They were, as you told us, rather Scruples than Reasons; and that which was the Occasion of them, was, that we were of Opinion, Sir *William Temple* intended, by this Means, rather to dive into the King's Intentions, than to disclose those of the Prince of *Orange*. Besides that, Sir *William Temple* being not to wait on the Prince, till some time after, we believ'd, we might receive an Answer from Court, before he could propose any thing farther of Consequence; and that then we might act with more Confidence and Security.

We

of the Mareſc. d'Eftrades, &c. 19

We don't queſtion, but that the *Swediſh* Ambaſſadors are inform'd already, of the Mediation offer'd by *Portugal*; nevertheless, we intend to acquaint them with it, to maintain, at all times, a fair Correſpondence with them. 'Tis very probable, that this Mediation, which is offer'd ſomewhat late, will be much longer, before it is accepted of by *Spain*.

If *Don Francisco de Melo's* being ſo near us, may be an Inducement to caſt our Eyes upon him, you know much better than we, how ſerviceable he might be to His Maſteſty.

We have made reiterated Inſtances to the Mediators, for the Paſſports from *Spain*, for the uſe of *Monſieur de Marſeille*, and we have deſir'd them, at the ſame time, to procure us others, from all the Princes you mention'd to us, for the *Marquis de Viſtry*, and the *Count de Rebenas*, who is to ſupply his Place. The Mediators have return'd in Anſwer, that though it be not properly their Province to intermeddle with any Paſſports, but ſuch as had a Relation to the Aſſembly at *Namur*; nevertheless, as they judg'd it belonging to the Duty of a Mediator, to remove every thing that might give any occaſion of Miſunderſtanding betwixt the Parties; they would write themſelves to the *Duke de Villabermosa*, as well for the Paſſports we deſir'd, as for thoſe for *Monſieur de Marſeille*, they having written only to the *Excell^t Reſident* before. So ſoon as they come to our Hands, we will not fail to ſend you thoſe for *Monſieur de Rebenas*, and to ſend thoſe for *Monſieur Viſtry*, to *Madam Bida* at *Hamburg*. We will alſo ſend thoſe for *Monſieur de Marſeille*, by the ſame way we intend to write to him; viz. by the *Sieur Duple*, a Correſpondent of the *Sieur Forment*. We are, Sir, entirely yours, &c.

L E T.

LETTER
From Monsieur de Pomponne to the
Ambassadors.

Dated October 29. 1676.

Gentlemen,

I have nothing very particular, to return in Answer to your Letters of the sixteenth and twentieth instant: The first has given the King to understand, the Care with which you are getting yourselves ready to notify to the Prince of *Orange*, and the *States-General*, the favourable Sentiments His Majesty entertains of them; and that you have already made a beginning, during the short stay that Monsieur *Odyck* made at *Nimeguen*. The Letter His Majesty wrote to you eight Days ago, was so full upon that Subject, that it's sufficient to give you all the Lights that are capable of regulating your farther Conduct, to incline the *States-General*, if possible, to a separate Peace, as well on Account of the Advantages they will reap from His Majesty, as the little Satisfaction which they have from Spain.

Forasmuch as the time draws near, when the *States-General* have declar'd they will enter into a Negotiation: you will shortly find yourselves in a condition to execute the Orders given you by His Majesty, and to manage, in particular, with the Ambassadors of *Holland*, if you cannot with all the Ministers, who are not yet sent to *Nimeguen*, and that are to form the Assembly. The Ambassadors of *Sweden* have written hither to the Envoy of the King their Master, that the Difficulties which they have already met with, about the

passing

passing of the Posts, are still continu'd; they demonstrate it as a natural Obstacle to a Treaty of Peace, but they make no new Demands of your Officers, because they are very well satisfy'd with the Services you do them. Our common Enemy cannot give a greater Testimony of their Aversion to Peace, than while they forbid a necessary Correspondence for that end.

The King is very well pleas'd, to hear of the Satisfaction the Mediators have shewn about the Neutrality, which he is willing to grant for half a League round *Nimwegen*, because it will signify to the King of *Great Britain*, the Regard His Majesty had to his Request.

I will send to Monsieur de la Haye, the King of *Great Britain's* Letter, which you sent me for the Elector of *Bavaria*. I desire you to believe, that I am, &c.

LETTER

From the *Ambassadors* to the King.

Dated October 30. 1676.

SIR,

WE have receiv'd the Dispatches, where with it pleas'd your Majesty to honour us of the 28th instant, which open unto us two ways, that we think the most proper to persuade the Ambassadors of the *States General*, and by them their Masters, that the most advantageous Side they can take in the present Posture of Affairs, is to re-enter into Your Majesty's Alliance by a private Treaty; but in regard those Ministers have, till now, taken an extraordinary Care to shun Opportunities of Confering with us, and that there is no Appearance we shall find any, before we can receive fresh Orders from Your Majesty,

leſty; agreeable to this, we may, without delay-
 ing the putting them in Execution, take the li-
 berty to tell you our Sentiments; which are, Sire,
 that the Method I, the Mareſchal d'Eftrades,
 made uſe of to diſpoſe the Prince of Orange to
 what Your Maſteſty deſires of him, having been,
 according to our general Opinion, the moſt inſal-
 lible, as well through the Confidence that Prince
 reſtore in the Miniſter to whom I ſpoke, as on
 Account of the conſiderable Eſtabliſhment which
 the latter finds in Your Maſteſty's good Succeſs;
 to wait the Event of it, before we explain ourſelves
 to the Ambaſſadors of *Holland*, principally upon
 what relates to *Maeftricht*, for fear the Overture
 we make to them thereof, ſhould not take Effect.
 The Choice which Your Maſteſty permitted me
 to leave entirely to the ſaid Prince, either to
 appropriate that Place to himſelf, or thereby to
 improve himſelf in the Eſteem of the *States-Ge-
 neral*, does not diminifh from the Greatneſs of
 the Obligation which he will tie under to Your
 Maſteſty, if you only truſt him with the ſole Se-
 cret of this Propoſal. As to every thing which
 regards the Commerce, forasmuch, Sire, as the
States-General have abundantly more Concern
 therein than that Prince, we ſhall not fail of an
 Opportunity to inform their Ambaſſadors of what
 Your Maſteſty has done to the honour to write to
 us about it; and if I, the Mareſchal d'Eftrades,
 have not Grounds to hope well from the Answer,
 which I daily expect on the part of the ſaid
 Prince, we will then try the way of the ſaid Am-
 baſſadors, to let them know all the Advantages
 which the *States-General* may promiſe themſelves
 from Your Maſteſty's Friendſhip; won't it, Sire?
 Nothing has occurred ſince our laſt Letters,
 which is worth Your Maſteſty's Notice; ſo that
 nothing remains for us to do, but to aſſure you of
 our

of the Marſc. d'Eſtrades, &c. 23

our perfect Submiſſion to your Will, and the reſpectful Zeal, with which we are, Sire, &c.

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated October 30. 1676.

SIR,

WE have nothing, at this time, to add to the Letter we have given ourſelves the honour to write to the King; and we believe, that before an Opportunity offers to execute His Maſteſty's Orders, you will have more time to let us know his Intentions about the Inconveniencies which we take Notice of in our Letters. We have now receiv'd one from Monſieur de la Haye, which preſſes us again to ſend him the Paſports, which you directed to us, for the Elector of Bavaria; we hope, that you will let him know His Maſteſty's Intentions thereupon. We are moſt really, Sir, &c.

LETTER

From the King to the Ambaſſadors.

Dated November 5. 1676.

Couſin, Meſſieurs Colbert and Count d'Arques before I anſwer your Letter of the 30th ult. I think it proper to give you freſh Inſtructions for your Conduſt, in caſe that the States-General ſhould, as they have declar'd, enter upon a Negotiation at the beginning of this Month, without

out waiting any longer for the Ministers of their Allies.

I have already inform'd you in my last, what particular Advantages I thought convenient for you to touch upon, and what Conditions you might offer them, if by forbearing to follow the Passion of my Enemies, whose Aversion to a Peace they should know, they would conclude a separate one with me; but because, before they descend to Particulars which may regard them alone, they will, apparently, be willing to secure the *State of Flanders*, for the Fear they have always shewn, that if I should make a Conquest of it, I should come too near upon their Frontiers; I think it expedient to prescribe you a Conduct more extensive than the Orders which I have hitherto given you. By the Instructions I gave you at your Departure, and by those that I have confirm'd to you since, I empower'd you to declare only to the Mediators, when they should demand of you the Conditions upon which I would make Peace, that having been first provok'd by the *Spaniard*, I would leave things in the same State; as the Fortune of War has plac'd them. I answer'd the Instances of the King of *England*, several times, in this manner, that I was willing to declare my Conditions; but because that Prince often gave me to see beforehand, by my Ministers who were with him, that the Peace could not be made without some Exchange of Places, which put *Brussels* and *Ghent* in a condition to be farther distant; I made him Answer, some time ago, by Monsieur *Cousin* my Ambassador, that tho' I might insist with Justice upon the present State of Affairs, I was, nevertheless, ready to hearken to the Proposals of Accommodation, which should be made me by my Enemies, without excluding any, of what Quality soever they may be. Thus I

left

left him an open Field to propoſe to me for *Spain* and the *States-General* ſuch Exchanges, as they ſhould think moſt advantageous for them. If the *States-General* enter into a Negotiation with you, whether directly by themſelves, or by the Mediators, and demand of you to declare the Conditions which I deſire in a Peace, my Intention is, that you explain yourſelves to them after the ſame manner, as I did to the King of *England*; that 'tis but Juſtice, that *Spain* ſuffer the Loſſes ſhe has ſuſtain'd in a War which ſhe declar'd againſt me; and that you leave them to conſider of it, according to the Order, which I have already given you; that *Maſtricht* being the only conquer'd Place, that I have left belonging to the *States-General*, they might expect it with my former Amity, and when they ſhall capacitate me to renew the Confidence I have ſo long repos'd in them; but in order to let them know, that I do not adhere ſo ſtiffly to thoſe Conditions which I claim from *Spain*, that I cannot admit of any others, you may tell them, as I declar'd to the King of *England*, that I will willingly hearken to any others, which ſhall be propos'd to me. This Answer may be the firſt Step of your Negotiation, in as much as it explains the Condition, in which I would abide, and leaves an entire Liberty to the *States-General* to declare their Minds. Thus according to all Appearance it being impoſſible they ſhould be ſatisfied with this firſt Overture, they will paſs incontinently to repreſent, That there cannot be a laſting Peace for *Spain*, nor Safety for *Holland*, ſo long as *Flanders* continues open, and expos'd to the firſt Efforts of my Armies, by the Places ſo advanc'd, as thoſe which I am there poſſeſs'd of; That 'tis neceſſary, what remains in the Hands of the *Catholic* King be united, and inclos'd within ſuch Bounds, as may

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defend

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defend it on all Sides; whereas, what he has yet left of those Provinces, is every where dismember'd; That there is not one Place even in the Heart of that *State*, which does not join to some of my Frontiers; That this is the Concern, as well of *Holland*, as of *Spain*; and that the *States-General*, willing to renew their ancient Leagues with me, desire that a Barrier may be set between them and *France*, which may remove so natural a Jealousie, as is caus'd by the Neighbourhood of Sovereigns. They have so long explain'd themselves after this manner, and appear so perswaded of the Necessity of an Exchange, that there is reason to believe, they will speak to you personally, or by the Mediators, in this Sense: And this is the Reason, why I was willing to anticipate the Instruction you desir'd of me, about the Answer that you were to give them. In case, then, that you make a Proposal in this sort, for an Exchange of a Place, I think it expedient, you should inform them, that to give farther Marks, not only of my Intentions for a Peace, but of the Desire I have, that the same may be firm and lasting, and that it may take away all Umbrage from my Neighbours, I am not averse to a just and proper Exchange; That even as *Spain* desires I should put into her Hands, some one of my Places, which she thinks too near the Heart of her Territories; she has Places in her Possession, that are likewise so near mine, or which may be of such a Conveniency for my Frontiers, that I shall willingly hearken to an Exchange, which may be propos'd to me. If you handle this Affair with the Mediators, you may tell them, that in this Resolution which I have taken, I was prevail'd upon very much by the Desire of the King of *Great-Britain*; and if you negotiate this Matter with the *States-General*, you may induce them to
look

look upon it as a Mark of my Esteem for them, and of the Will I had to remove the Scruple which they might entertain on Account of my Neighbourhood. My Desire that they be inform'd of my Inclination to a Change, is so much the stronger, because I know that this Point has affected them a long while; that 'tis the most capable to induce them to continue the War, or to dispose them to make Peace; and that they cannot explain themselves in a more important Conjunction.

The End of the Campaign, and the Assembly which is going to be held, in a few Days, in the Province of *Holland*, may regulate the Resolution of the Funds, and the Charges they are to be at next Year. The View of the Hopes of Peace, and the easie Methods by which I am willing to forward it, may perhaps have a great Effect on Spirits already crush'd with the Weight of a War which consumes them, and which are liable to be farther affected with the Advantages they may reap by their former Alliance with me, whether by the Recovery of *Maestricht*, which I permitted you to let them have a sight of, or by the Re-establishment of Trade. So that I desire you, according to the Order I just now prescrib'd to you, that after you have given an occasion to the Ambassadors of the *States-General*, to come to a Proposal of Exchange, as 'tis not doubted but they will, that then you leave them full of Satisfaction to hear that I am dispos'd thereto, and also of a Desire to offer one just and reasonable.

After having comply'd with the Instances of the King of *Great-Britain*, and the Request of the whole Assembly, which is to be form'd at *Nimegue*, but in particular that of the *States-General*, that I would grant a Neutrality for half a League round that Town; I think it expedient for you to include therein the three Villages which re-

main'd in Debate, according to the Draught you sent me, and about which you expect my Orders. All these Facilities on my Part, ought to let them know how sincere those are, which I have all along added to them, to forward the Work of Peace. For what remains, I pray God, to take you, my Cousin, into his holy and worthy Care, and you, Messieurs Colbert and Count d'Avaux, into his sacred Protection.

Written at Versailles, the 5th of November, 1676,
Sign'd LOUIS; and underneath, ARNAULD.

LETTER

*From the Ambassadors to Monsieur
de Pomponne.*

Dated November 6. 1676.

SIR,

WE have receiv'd the Letter, which you did us the Honour to write to us, of the 29th ult. and forasmuch as we have no Answer to make thereto, we shall only tell you, that Sir William Temple being a little indispos'd of the Gout, Sir Lionel Jenkins came to see us, and told us, that the Ambassadors of the States had declar'd to him, and Sir William Temple, That their Masters were not able to refuse the Instances of the Deputies of the Allies, who are at the Hague, for fixing the Day of Opening the Conferences to the 1st of November, O. S. and all this upon the lively Remonstrances which the said Deputies made, that the Allies had always concluded, it was the Intention of the States. The Ambassadors of Holland declar'd at the same time, that they should begin from that Day to manage the Negotiation,

tiation; so that, Sir, we hope very shortly, to have more Matter to give an Account to the King of what we do here, than we have had hitherto; but we dare not give the Ambassadors of the States to understand, what we were order'd to insinuate to them, for Reasons which we gave ourselves, the Honour to write to you the 30th ult. Wherefore, we wait the King's Pleasure, which we hope to know very suddenly, in order that we may be able to execute His Commands in time.

Sir *Lionel Jenkins* also told us, that the Ambassadors of the States have renew'd their Instances for the Passports of the Duke of Lorrain, and the House of Lunenbourg; and he added, that those Mediators answer'd afterwards all that we have insisted repeated to them; and Sir *Lionel Jenkins* was of the same Opinion with us, that the States made those Instances, rather to satisfy their Allies, than out of any great Concern they had for the Success.

Sir, we send you the Letters, which Monsieur *Puffendorff* brought us: They will inform you much more fully, that we cannot frame the Delign of his Journey.

Sir, we have heard by a Person from *Brussels*, that Monsieur *de Villabermosa* has granted a Passport for Monsieur *de Marseille*, that is was to have been dispatch'd the 3d instant, and sent hither to the Mediators. Sir *Lionel Jenkins* has shew'd us a Letter from the Resident of *England* at *Brussels*, which confirms the same thing: So that, Sir, we shall send Monsieur *de Marseille* his Passport the first Opportunity. We believe, Sir, you will find it expedient, that we should represent to you, that 'twas owing to the Care of Monsieur *Voeller*, the King of *Spain's* Secretary for the Affairs of *Germany*, that the Passport of Monsieur *de Marseille*

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was dispatch'd; and that he was the Person who gave us the Information of it. He may be capable to do the same thing hereafter, whether for the Passports, which we demand at present for the Count de Rebenne, or others, which we may stand in need of. For this Reason, Sir, we take the Liberty to desire a Passport of you, for this said Monsieur Voeller, who lately marry'd a Woman in Nimeguen, and is very willing to come into this Country with her to see her Relations, with a Design to return again afterwards to *Brussels*. He was very desirous that a perpetual Passport might be given him, that he might have liberty to perform this Journey at Pleasure, and to go to some Houses, which he has about *Brussels*; and he back'd his Demand with the Example of Monsieur le Fevre, the King's Secretary at *Brussels*, who has one of the like Nature; but in regard that we know not any particular Reasons, which should dispose the King to bestow these Favours, we know not whether His Majesty would be pleas'd to grant one in this manner; we only represent to you what he desir'd of us, and we have heretofore subjoin'd a Copy of a small Memorial which he sent us. We are mostly really, Sir, entirely devoted to your Service.

LETTER

LETTER

From Monsieur de Pomponne to the
Ambassadors.

Dated November 12. 1676.

Gentlemen,

IN answer to the Dispatches you sent His Majesty, of the 30th ult. and those you were pleas'd to write to me of the 3d instant, I am to acquaint you, His Majesty is very well pleas'd, that, conformably to his Intentions, you made no Account to inform the Ambassadors of the *States-General*, of the Advantages which His Majesty is willing to procure for their Masters in a Peace, till after Monsieur Pesters has let you know the Fruits of the Offers that the Marechal d' Estrades communicated to him, for the Prince of *Orange*; Forasmuch as you expected Monsieur Pesters the Date of your last Letter, you will very speedily be inform'd of the Sentiments of that Prince.

You have also, by this time, some light into the Thoughts of the *States-General*, if, as the Ambassadors of *England* assur'd you, they were Yesterday to enter into the Negotiation with you, after having wip'd off the Evasion of their Allies about old and new Style. All that His Majesty gets by ways that seem the most secure, notes a great Desire of Peace in *Holland*; that even the Prince of *Orange* does not seem very averse to it, and without doubt, he would be very sensible, if after having serv'd the *Spaniards* to that Degree as he has done, he should not be touch'd to the quick, for the affronting manner in which they spoke of him in the Affair of *Maestricht*. All this agrees well enough with the Advice that the Ambassadors of

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Sweden have had, and may give us some hopes of the Negotiation, which is to begin with you.

The Answer which has been made in *Denmark*, on Account of the Passage of the Letters of *Sweden*, should equally touch all the Princes who have any Concern in the Assembly at *Nimeguen*, if they have all the same desire of making Peace. Those Restrictions for the sole Pacquets of Ambassadors, and the Liberty given in *Denmark* to open them, scarce agree with that most perfect Sincerity, which ought to be in the Account those Ministers return to their Master; and 'tis to be thought, that the Interposition of the Mediators will surmount the Obstacle which this Difficulty shall be capable to start in the Treaty. I am, Gentlemen, with all imaginable Esteem and Sincerity, entirely devoted to your Service.

LETTER

From the Ambassadors to the King.

Dated November 13. 1676.

SIRE,

THE Dispatches, wherewith it pleas'd Your Majesty to honour us, of the 5th instant, have put us in such good Methods to begin a happy Negotiation with the Ambassadors of the *States-General*, that there are Grounds to believe, so soon as it shall be free for them to enter into a Conference with us, they will endeavour to make an Advantage of the easie means Your Majesty has contriv'd, for the Procuring a Peace, and in Conjunction with their Allies, or separately, to put an end to a War, the Consequences whereof they have more reason to fear, than the Neighbourhood of Your Majesty, when you are willing

to

to take all manner of Umbrage from them, by Exchange of Places. 'Tis a long time, Sire, that those Ambassadors have avoided with great Care, any Opportunities of Speaking to us, and that they have given us to understand by their Friends, that they are oblig'd to observe this Conduct, for fear of giving Jealousie to their Allies; but forasmuch as the time, which the *States-General* granted to the said Allies, is expir'd, and that Monsieur *Beverning* is return'd from the *Hague*, we hope that he and his Collegue will not delay any longer to make Proposals either directly, or by the Mediators.

We went Yesterday to see the latter, to put them in Remembrance, that the first of *November*, even according to Old Style, was past three Days ago; and we acquainted them at the same time, that Your Majesty was willing to include in the Neutrality the three Villages which remain'd in Debate amongst us: They told us, that this Day they would communicate to the Ambassadors of *Holland*, the Joy they conceiv'd, for the Regard Your Majesty has been pleas'd to shew to the Offices of the King of *Great-Britain*, and the Desire of the *States-General*; and that they would take our Day, and that of the said Ambassadors, to go upon the Place, in order to give some Token, whereby to notify to the respective Parties, what had been agreed upon. We hope that this occasion will give us room to make use of Your Majesty's Instructions to Advantage; and we believe you are very well persuaded, that we shall always use all manner of Care and Application in the faithful Execution of Your Orders; being with a profound Respect, Sire, &c.

LETTER

From the Ambassadors to Monsieur de Pomponne.

Dated November 13. 1676.

SIR,

WE wait with great Impatience, for an Opportunity to notify to the Ambassadors of the *States-General*, the good Intentions of the King, as to every thing that regards their Masters; and we hope that our first Conference will very much advance a Treaty with them, or at least, oblige them to make us just and reasonable Proposals.

The Mediators have not yet receiv'd the Passports of Monsieur de Villabermosa, which we demanded of them, by your Order; but forasmuch as they impute the Delay to nothing but the usual Slowness of the *Spaniards*, we hope that in a little time, we shall be able to obtain them.

We are assur'd, that the Ambassador of *Denmark* has been here four Days, but he designs to continue *incognito*, till his Lodgings are furnish'd. We know not yet by what time Don Pedro Ronquillo will be here; but there is Appearance, that he will not hasten his Coming, till the Ambassadors of the *States-General* shall begin to enter into Conference with us. We are, &c.

LETTER

LETTER

*From the Ambassadors to Monsieur
de Louvois.*

Dated November 13. 1676.

SIR,

THE Favour which the King has done us, to approve of what we did in Execution of his Orders, touching the Neutrality round this City, and also of Including therein the three Villages which remain'd in Debate, is so well receiv'd, both by the Mediators, and the other Ambassadors, who are here assembled, and so strongly convinces them of the King's good Dispositions for a Peace, that if we had not presum'd to trouble you about a Thing wherein we had no other Interest, than that of the King, who has as great a Share in your Affection, as any Person in the World; yet we ought at least to inform you of the good Effect it has produc'd, and most humbly to beseech you to give the necessary Orders, for what space of Ground His Majesty would please to allow the Excursions of the Soldiers, that it may not be less respected and consider'd by the Troops of His Majesty, than by those of the Enemy. We shall not fail, Sir, to give you an Account of what we shall do with the Mediators, and the Ambassadors, in order to set Bounds or Marks to notify to the Parties the Extent of His Majesty's Grant; and we shall improve, with great Joy, the Opportunity which this Affair gives us, to testify to you the Respect with which we are, &c.

LETTER

From the Ambassadors to the King.

Dated November 17. 1676.

SIRE,

THE Ambassadors of Sweden came to give us a Visit on Saturday Morning, and told us, they thought themselves oblig'd to inform us of the Resolutions they might perhaps take at the *Hague*, which would be very prejudicial to the Interests of Your Majesty, and that of the King their Master; That the *Spaniards* would not repair to *Nimeguen*; That the *States* had not decreed among themselves, upon what Conditions they might induce *Spain* to make Peace; That in the mean while, the *Spaniards* are steadfast in demanding, that they may be re-establish'd in the same Condition, as they were by the Treaty of the *Pyrenees*; and that the King of *Denmark*, the Elector of *Brandenburg*, and other Princes, who have gain'd any Conquests in *Sweden*, offer to continue the War, without Subsidies, and demand in Recompence, that their Conquests may be secur'd to them. Those Gentlemen gave us to understand, that tho' these Demands are very unreasonable, yet they have a Party among the *States*, compos'd of the Prince of *Orange*, and of those in the Interest of that Prince, who are not for Peace, and begin to make Proposals of a dangerous Consequence.

First, with regard to *France*, they propose to demand of her, *Courmay*, *Audenarde*, *Heub*, *Tournay*, *Charleroy* and *Philippeville*: As to *Sweden*, that the King of *Denmark* shall keep *Wisnar*; but with respect to *Schonen* and *Bleskingen*, they told us, that the

the *States* have some Jealousie to see both Sides of the Sound under the same Sovereign, and that they should be very glad to have those Provinces restor'd to *Sweden*; That the Elector of *Brandenburg* shall deliver up *Wolgat*, *Auslam*, *Demin*, and have *Sterin*; That the Duke of *Zell* shall keep *Staden*, and almost the whole Duchy of *Bremen*, which he shall hold in Fealty and Homage to the King of *Sweden*. They told us, that one of their intimate Friends acquainted them with this News, and that in regard he is of that Party who wish for Peace, he pray'd them to put himself, and those who are well affected, in a way to hinder the taking any final Resolutions upon those Proposals; adding at the same time, that the best Method would be to raze out the sinister Impressions which are given, insinuating that *France* is not absolutely inclin'd for a Peace, or if she is, not for a lasting one.

Whereupon, Sire, after having thank'd them for the Care, with which they gave us this Notice, we had a fine Field to enlarge upon, by improving to them as much as was really requisite, what Your Majesty did us the Honour to write to us thereupon, and without being too forward, or telling them, that we had no Orders, but only after we had let them know of what Advantage this might be to the *States-General*, if by satisfying their particular Demands, they would farther rid them of their imaginary Fear, by hearkening to Proposals of Exchange. We gave Hints enough of it, to make way for their Friend to act to good Purpose, by giving them hopes, that they would find Your Majesty as well dispos'd, as could be wish'd, for a good and lasting Peace. The Ambassadors of *Sweden* were entirely satisfy'd with every thing we told them; and declar'd to us, that 'twas a Matter of so great Importance, so
little

little expected by the *States*, and so earnestly wish'd for, that they were persuaded, that so soon as they should give their Friend some Glimpse of Hopes, he himself, and those who are well affected, could employ them to such an Advantage, that they would hinder them from taking any determinate Resolution; since it might be able to ruin the sole Foundation, upon which they endeavour to engage the *States* in a perpetual War. Therefore, Sire, they hope the *Dutch* will not tie up their Hands, before they have made Proposals to Your Majesty. In that case, we pray'd them to consider, that if their Friends were inclin'd for a Peace, they could forward it no other way, than by vigorously Remonstrating to the *States*, what Your Majesty possesses by the two authentick Treaties of the *Pyrenees* and *Aix la Chapelle*; and that *Spain* having since declar'd War, 'twas but Justice, she should suffer the Losses she has sustain'd by it; that therefore, they could not forbear to make Proposals suitable to the present State of Affairs; but if they adhere to the Desires of the *Spaniards*, and propose unreasonable Exchanges, 'twould be just Siding with the Passion of those who are averse to Peace, and who seeing the easie Methods that *France* has laid down in order thereunto, employ themselves in abusing them, by proposing Conditions, which render a Peace impossible. The Gentlemen understood this very well, and assur'd us, they would go to work thereupon. Afterwards they told us, that they were likewise impatient at the *Hague*, to know what *France* design'd to do for *Sweden* and *Lorraine*; and it appear'd to us before, from a great Part of their Discourse, that they had a mind to know what were our Instructions about that Affair. We told them, Sire, that with regard to *Germany*, the Treaties of *Westphalia* would regulate all Things;

Things; that we deſire only the Execution of them; and the Re-eſtabliſhment of every Thing which has been done to their prejudice, and that they might be aſſur'd, Your Maſteſty would give them all the Aſſiſtance of a moſt faithful Ally, and that we ſhould always maintain a ſtrict Union with them; but that we did not believe 'twas their Intereſt, we ſhould explain ourſelves, as far as at preſent regards them; for the more we ſhould demand for them, the more we ſhould unite all the Princes of *Germany*, in a Deſign to thwart the Peace by all the ways imaginable. Then we gave them to underſtand, that this was a Trick of the *Spaniards*, who being averſe to a Peace, had a Deſign to lay the Fault upon every one beſides themſelves; that for that end, inſtead of Speaking of an Affair of more Conſequence, which regards the *Low-Countries*, and about which they had reſolv'd to come to no proper Accommodation, they ſought out other Pretences about Affairs which cannot be regulated to this very Hour, which yet would very ſpeedily be determin'd, if we were agreed with *Holland*; and that therefore we believ'd, as we ſo often told them, that at this time, all we had in View was to agree with the *States*, and to know what they deſir'd; For which end, we could not be too diligent in ſeeking to diſpoſe 'em favourably, by the eaſie Methods, which they will think to find laid down by Your Maſteſty. The Gentlemen agreed to this, and appeared ſatisfy'd with the Reaſons we afterwards added to them; which we ſhall not here repeat, for fear we prove tireſome to Your Maſteſty. Afterwards they told us, that the Ambaſſadors of *Holland* had orders to begin the Conferences, upon the firſt Requeſt of the Mediators, and aſſur'd us, that the *States* themſelves were aſtoniſh'd at the Indifferency of the Mediators, and becauſe they have

have not in the least hasten'd their Ambassadors; which those of *Sweden* impute to Sir *William Temple*; who has an intimate Correspondence with the Prince of *Orange*; and at *Brussels*; where he has been a long time; and believe that he waits for the Allies, as much as possible.

For this Reason, Sire, we resolv'd to go and meet the Mediators that same Day; which was *Saturday*; after Dinner; and having made them our Instances to support the Memorial, which the Ambassadors of *Sweden* gave them for the Freedom of their Letters, we told them; that the Day of Opening the Conferences, even according to Old Style, being pass'd four Days ago, we desir'd them to know of the Ambassadors of *Holland*; what orders they had from the *States*; and to give us a positive Answer thereto, to the intent that Your Majesty may take your Measures thereupon.

We shall begin in this last Article, to tell Your Majesty the Answer of the Mediators; because 'twas no more in one Word, than that they would go to the Ambassadors that very Day.

As for what relates to the Memorial the Ambassadors of *Sweden* deliver'd, the Mediators told us, that as to the Freedom of Commerce; and the usual Course of Letters, they believ'd it was a Thing done; and that most certainly they would not oppose it; and then they assur'd us farther, that the *States* would make it their proper Business; and would complain also of the King of *Denmark* upon this Occasion; because the Letters of the Merchants of *Amsterdam* for *Sweden*; had not their Course: We were satisfy'd enough with this Answer, since it appears to us, that thereby *Sweden* will have the same Advantages, as *Spain* has of *France*; and which all the other Princes have in this Assembly; and that as to the Freedom of Sending

Sending extraordinary Couriers, we are not in the right, to require any thing thereupon: However, ſince the Ambaſſadors of Sweden ſtrongly inſiſt on it, as grounded upon their having ſent Paſports after this manner, their being accepted, and the like return'd, 'tis a Thing conſummate upon their Account; and that the Refuſal France has made ſince to allow of this Clause, does not hinder what remain'd concluded in particular with them, from being declin'd. Sir William Temple being alſo very large upon this Article, told us, he was at the Hague, when he exchange'd the Paſports; that 'twas true, they were ſent after this manner into Sweden, and that 'twas agreed to grant this Liberty to Ambaſſadors, in order to facilitate the Negotiation; but that at the ſame time, when the States took this Reſolution, they made another, which was, that in caſe France ſhould except againſt any one of the Clauſes inſerted in the Paſports, this ſame Clause, which was ſet forth in the Paſports already deliver'd to the other Allies of France, ſhould be void, and remain of no Effect; that therefore the Ambaſſadors of Sweden could not ſay, the Affair was entirely conſummate on their Account, becauſe this Reſolution ſtill continues.

The Ambaſſadors of Sweden, to whom we reported this Answer, pretend they cannot ſhew any Declaration of the States, dated the ſame time, when they ſent the Paſports; that there was but one of the 8th of May, which being poſterior, could not have any retroactive Effect, ſince every thing was regulated with them before; but forasmuch as Sir William Temple perſiſts to affirm, that he knows there was another Declaration before; we don't ſee how the Ambaſſadors of Sweden can expect to have Satisfaction thereupon; nant the rather, becauſe they told us, that Sir William Temple

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Temple was their Adversary in this Point, and that 'twas he who counsel'd the *States* to make the Declaration of the 8th of *May*.

Then, *Sire*, *Sir William Temple* ask'd us, if 'twas true, that Your Majesty offers to grant a Passage for *Couriers* from *Flanders* to *Madrid*, by the way of *Lions*; and since we do not actually know Your Majesty's Intentions, and besides, that we are not willing to disclaim what the Ambassadors of *Sweden* have advanc'd, as to what they wrote to their Resident with Your Majesty, we resolv'd to ask them in our Turn, and demand of them, if 'twas upon this Notice, the *States* had resolv'd to do something for *Sweden*, in case Your Majesty had granted that passage. To which, Answer being return'd, that they had no Knowledge of it, that Discourse ended there; but seeing the *Swedes* press us farther upon that Affair, and we have done ourselves the Honour to write of it to Your Majesty, we shall expect Your Orders thereupon.

The Mediators being come to return us an Answer on *Sunday* in the Afternoon, *Sir William Temple* made a Report to us, that having spoke with the Ambassadors of *Holland*, *Monsieur Bevering* answer'd him, that the Mediators being here, they thought 'twas their Business to regulate after what manner the Conferences should be manag'd, and that they durst not intermeddle with it. *Sir William Temple* was willing to encourage us from this Answer, for that he did not chuse to acquaint the King his Master with it, and to know his Sentiments, but because he said, that so far as we and the Ambassadors of *Sweden* have offer'd to communicate our Full-Powers, and in regard that the Ambassadors of the *States* refus'd to see them till they had the Liberty, 'twas a silent Consent that the Conferences could not begin better than

than by a Communication of the Full-Powers: To which Monsieur Beverning immediately agreed, and ſaid, that the Ambaſſadors of the States were ready that Moment, to deliver their Full-Powers: Sire, we give you theſe Particulars to let you know the Diſpoſitions of thoſe with whom we have to do, and the little that was needful to be ſpoke, to incline the Ambaſſadors of *Holland* for opening the Aſſembly.

Then, being *Sunday*, we agreed with the Mediators, that they ſhould on *Monday* go and acquaint the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden* with all this, to learn their Sentiments, which we know are conformable to obſs, as they have ſince told us. So that, Sire, this Morning, we, the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden*, and thoſe of *Holland*, deliver'd our Full-Powers into the Hands of the Mediators, and we hope, Sire, to enter very ſoon upon Buſineſs; in the mean time, we will mind all occaſions that ſhall offer, to ſignifie Your Maſteſty's good Inſtances to the Ambaſſadors of *Holland*.

The Mediators, in the ſame Conference on *Sunday*, told us, that the King of *England* having receiv'd two Letters, he had ſent the ſaid Letters to them, in order to be ſhown to us; the one is from the Duke of *Mecklenburg*, and the other from the Duke of *Mecklenburg*, who both deſire that the Quality of Ambaſſadors may be given to their Miniſters: Forasmuch as we foreſaw this Demand, not indeed that of the Duke of *Mecklenburg*, we concerted among ourſelves what Answer to return; for we think, Sire, that at a time when the Mediators make us theſe Inſtances only in a ſlight manner, they will not forbear to let them know, that they preſs us very much thereupon, and charge Your Maſteſty with all the Reſentment that may be conceiv'd by the Princes of the Empire. Therefore we have taken an Expedient,

dient, to answer in such a manner, that the said Princes shall have rather cause to praise Your Majesty, than to complain of You, and not impute to You alone the Refusal which is made to grant their Ministers the Quality of Ambassadors. With this View, we told the Mediators, that Your Majesty, far from refusing the Princes of the Empire any thing that was their Due, was always ready to favour them in every thing You could; that Your Majesty was ever thus dispos'd; that You had seen more than once, during the Assembly at *Munster*, the Complaints the Emperor made, that Your Majesty had still the same Sentiments of 'em, and gave them Marks of Your Affection on all Opportunities; and that on this occasion, having inform'd You of the Claims of those Princes, You gave us to understand, that You do not intend to deny them one Privilege which they have acquir'd; but that Custom which usually regulates Things of this sort oppos'd it, and that there is no Example, that their Ministers had the Quality of Ambassador in any of the late Assemblies; however, since the Mediators spoke to us again about that Affair, we pray'd them before we undertook to write further, to satisfy us about two Things we demand'd of them, *viz.* whether the Emperor and the King of Spain supported the Demands of those Princes; and if the King of Great Britain; when he sent them this last Letter, gave them Orders to make Solicitations thereupon which if so, we desir'd them to give us this Declaration in Writing, because it might be of great Weight with Your Majesty to see that the Emperor and the King of Spain should be of that Opinion, and that the King of Great Britain should use his Offices thereupon, thinking their Claim reasonable; so that, Since, after a great deal of Estimation they at length reply'd to us, that the Emperor and the

the King of *Spain* had not made any Inſtances about the Affair; that the King of *England* did not approve of the Letters, and only gave them Orders to ſhew them to us; and we on our ſide, Sir, told them, that the Allies of the Princes of *Germany* having made no Solicitations for them, and the King of *England* not judging their Pretenſions reaſonable, we do not think we ought to write to Your Maſteſty about an Affair, concerning which, far from making us any Requeſt, we find them, and the King their Maſter in very remote Sentiments. We hope, if an Opportunity offers, to make good uſe of this Declaration of the Mediators in due Time and Place.

We are afraid, Sir, that after ſo tedious a Letter, we ſhall not have room to importune Your Maſteſty, with our moſt humble Intreaty, to do us the Favour to remit us our Salaries; but the Advances we muſt make here every Month for the Rents of our Houſe, beſides our ordinary Expence, oblige us unwillingly to ſpeak of it to Your Maſteſty, becauſe we find ourſelves here, on ſome Occaſions, more liable to Charge than other Ambaſſadors. We are, with a profound Reſpect, Sir, &c.

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated November 17. 1676.

SIR,

YOU will ſee by the Letter we give ourſelves the Honour to write to the King, that we deliver'd our Full-Powers this Morning into the Hands of the Mediators, with the compar'd Copies,

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pics, after we had examin'd them; and subjoin'd their Certificate underneath, to deliver to the Ambassadors of *Holland*, who have likewise return'd theirs, the Delivery whereof we also wait for.

Sir *William Temple* was not too forward to press the Opening of the Conferences, and as the Ambassadors of *Sweden* have since told us, he promis'd *Don Emanuel de Lira*, to spin out the Preliminaries to as great a Length as possible; but the Ambassadors of *Sweden* hope, that the *Swedes* will permit their Ambassadors to confer with us; this is what is very much to be wish'd for: *Messieurs Be-vernig* and *Haeren* are very well dispos'd, as far as we can judge of them.

Sir, we have sent you a Copy of the new Memorial the Ambassadors of *Sweden* have presented, which is conformable to the former, except in some inconsiderable Circumstances; together with the Copy of the Letters of the Dukes of *Newburg* and *Mecklenburg*.

We hope that the King has not disapprov'd of the Expedient we took touching the common Claim of those Princes, and we shall judge more certainly by the Event, that the Design was no other, than to notify to those Princes, that His Majesty alone oppos'd their Demands. We have had no Answer about the second Passport for *Monsieur de Marseille*, nor those of the Count de *Rebenac*; and the *Marquis de Viry*, and the Mediators make no great Hast in Affairs of this sort. We design to write of it to *Monsieur Voeller*, but we dare not do it yet, till we have obtain'd for him what he desires. We are, &c.

L E T.

LETTER

From Monsieur de Pomponne to the
Ambassadors.

Dated November 19. 1676.

Gentlemen,

THE Letters you were pleas'd to write to me, of the 6th and 10th instant, do not require any particular Answer. We are in Expectation of the Conferences that the Ambassadors of the *States-General* are suddenly to open with you. I shall only tell you, that the King has granted the Passports I have sent you for Monsieur *Vœller* at *Nimeguen*. The King has heard by Monsieur de *Feuquieres*, the reason of Monsieur *Puffendorff*'s Journey into *Germany*; 'Tis to be wish'd he may succeed, and that the Princes of *Germany* may enter, as they ought, into the Guaranty of the Treaties of *Westphalia*, for which they are oblig'd to this Crown. The King has so great an Interest in the Success of this Negotiation, that His Majesty desires his Ministers to contribute thereto, as much as in them lies: Therefore, Gentlemen, His Intention is, that you make known to the said Monsieur *Puffendorff*, the Orders you have to back the Intentions of the King his Master, as far as lies in your Power. His Majesty thinks it proper, that you should as much as you can, let fall some Instances which the Ambassadors of *Sweden* made you, to renew the Declaration which the King pass'd heretofore, that His Majesty would permit the Plenipotentiaries of the *Catholic King* to dispatch Couriers into *Spain*, provided they would take their way thro' *Cologne*,
Frankfort,

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Frankfort, Strassburg, Rhynfeldt, Swisserland, and Lions. The manner wherein you was answer'd from *Denmark* about the passing of the Letters, has given you sufficient Occasion. 'Tis strange they should start so many Difficulties for the usual Posts, and that they are willing to confine the Liberty of sending Letters into *Sweden*, to the single Pacquets of the Ambassadors of *Sweden* at *Nimeguen*. You may express Resentment enough at so unjust a Proposal, to disengage you from making Answer to the Demand which requires that the Ambassadors of *Spain* may dispatch Couriers thro' the Kingdom; since to set things on an equal Foot, the King of *Denmark* should suffer Couriers to pass from *Sweden* thro' his Territories; but above all, avoid explaining yourselves upon the Declaration which the Ambassadors of *Sweden* desire of you.

Gentlemen, while I was about this Letter, I receiv'd your Dispatches directed to His Majesty of the 13th instant: They will shew him the good Effect you hope for, from the manner in which His Majesty permitted you to speak to the Ambassadors of the *States-General*; perhaps, the Return of Monsieur *Beverning* will put you in a Condition to make use of the Liberty it gives you.

I need not tell you that the News of the Peace of *Poland* has been receiv'd with great Joy by His Majesty: You may easily know what are the Consequences he expects from it, with Regard to the Elector of *Brandenburg*, and what Jealousie the Court of *Vienna* may entertain of the Port disengag'd from a great War.

Gentlemen, you will scarce learn, by this Letter, that the Duke of *Zell* having form'd the Siege of *Deux-Ponts*, retir'd upon the March of the Mareschal de *Crequi*. This News will be as soon at *Nimeguen*, as at *Paris*. You know also, that the
Army

Army of Prince *Charles* has begun to ſeparate, and to march into Quarters; ſo that the Campaign may be ſaid to be juſt at an end on all Sides; it ſtill continues happily in *Sicily*, where the King's Troops have taken the Poſt of *Furmine*, an important Place, on Account of its Situation between *Mefſina* and *Agouſta*, and its Neighbourhood to *la Scaleſta*. The Duke of *Vivonne* is in the Field with the reſt of his Army, on the ſide of *Syracufa*. I am, Gentlemen, with all the Eſteem and Sincerity that is poſſible, entirely devoted to your Service.

L E T T E R

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated November 20. 1676.

S I R,

WE give ourſelves the Honour to ſend You the Copy of the Full-Powers of the *States-General*; they are only to treat with us, and they have the like for *Sweden*. We find but one Difficulty in them, which is, that the Clause inſerted therein, about Treating for a Peace upon Conditions the moſt profitable, and the moſt advantageous for the Good of the *State*, might render the Ambaſſadors liable to recant, and would be of Conſequence with Perſons who ſhould not act *bona fide*; but we are perſuaded, we ſhall ſtart as few Difficulties as we are able in the Preliminaries; and Sir *Lionel Jenkins* having aſſur'd one of us, that the firſt Full-Powers of the Ambaſſadors of *Holland* at *Cologne*, were very defective, they gave others, which were approv'd by the King, wherein was the ſame Clause, and which we found

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to be true, according to the Copy of the Powers, that remain in the Hands of the Ambassadors of *Sweden*, who were Mediators there. We thought we could do nothing less than return a conditional Answer; and we resolv'd, after we had thank'd the Mediators for the Care and Diligence they had us'd in the respective Communication of our Powers, to tell them, that the King having always answer'd the Desires of the King of *Great-Britain* to procure a Peace, by a most sincere Intention to facilitate the same, as much as possible, on his side; His Majesty had given us Full-Powers, in which we do not foresee any Difficulty can be found; and that in regard we are willing to believe the *States* would likewise act *bona fide* on their parts, and not seek for any Difficulties, on this Occasion, to retard the Opening of the Assembly, we were not willing to stop at the Clause, for treating of a Peace upon Conditions the most profitable and advantageous for the Good of the *State*, tho' nevertheless, it may be captious and differently interpreted. In the mean time, we reserve a Power to do it, if the Ambassadors of *Holland* have a mind to contend with us, about any Clause of our Powers; so that, Sir, if they make no Difficulty, we shall go on, and if they should start any, which we believe they will not, we shall be able to amend that Clause in their Powers, without being thought Guilty of the Delay, which this would occasion in the Negotiation. For, Sir, we are persuaded that our Adversaries would not make use of the same Expedient here, as they did at *Cologne*, to enter always into a Negotiation, while every one of their Side should reform his Powers, when the least Difficulty would stop us on a sudden; for which Reason, we shall not act unwarily till the Negotiation is begun. We would have return'd the Answer
this

of the Mareſc. d' Eſtrades, &c. 51

this Day, without fearing the Appearance it might give of too much Haſte, if it would have been but conducive to the Advancement of the Negotiation; but forasmuch as the Ambassadors of *Holland* cannot return an Answer within three Days after they have had it, we thought it was better to ſtay till to morrow, in order to appear leſs eager, and to act in concert with the Ambassadors of *Sweden*. We are, &c.

LETTER

From the Ambassadors to the King.

Dated November 24. 1676.

S I R E,

WE hop'd that the Communication of the Full-Powers, whereof we inform'd Your Majesty in our preceding Diſpatches, would have been follow'd with ſome Propoſals on the Part of the Ambassadors of the *States-General*, and alſo by ſome Conferences with them; but it appear'd to us, this Day, that the Fear they have of their Allies, farther retards the Execution of the Reſolution, which the ſaid *States* made to enter by the beginning of this Month, into a Negotiation with us; and in order to cover this Delay with ſome Pretext, they have made ſix Objections againſt our Powers, of which the Mediators made a Report to us, laſt *Saturday*, without giving us them in Writing, and took great Care to aggravate them to us, and to omit nothing which might render them ſpecious. The Memorial hereto annex'd, contains the Subſtance of them, as well as that of our Answers; and we can aſſure Your Majesty, without tiring you with a long Narrative of the Particulars of all our Debates, that the Mediators

at length agreed, that the Difficulties which the Ambassadors of the *States-General* make, are not well founded. In the mean time, forasmuch as Sir *William Temple* has not shewn, for these two last Days, any Forwardness to remove these Obstacles, and has not propos'd any Expedient to us, but only urg'd us to produce other Powers, if we had any; and besides, in regard that the Mediators of *Sweden* have advice from the *Hague*, that the said Mediator promis'd Monsieur de *Lira* to spin out the Preliminaries with heavy Delays, we thought 'twas most important for Your Majesty's Service, and chiefly in the present Conjuncture, when the *States-General* are just ready to make good or bad Resolutions for a Peace, to take away from your Enemies all occasion of saying, that it was only retarded by a Default in our Powers. For this Reason, we did of our own Accord, and without waiting for Your Majesty's Orders, judge it expedient, after the Mediators were agreed in their Opinion of the little Reason the Ambassadors of the *States-General* had to insist upon the reforming of our Powers, to tell them in the first Place, that we had remark'd an essential Fault in theirs, conceiv'd in these Words, (to make Peace upon Conditions the most profitable and advantageous for the Good of this *State*) this Clause being capable to give room to those, among the *States-General*, that are not for Peace, to make their Ambassadors recant, under pretence that the Conditions which they had stipulated, were not the most profitable and advantageous for the Good of the *State*; and so much the rather, because in the Promise to ratifie, 'tis what shall be thus stipulated, that is promis'd and negotiated; That nevertheless the Integrity with which Your Majesty acts, giving us grounds to believe the *States-General* would imitate it throughout the whole

whole Negotiation; and beſides, all the Methods, by which we facilitate the Advancement of Peace on your part, being incapable to ſucceed but to your Glory, in the good Condition, wherein, by the Grace of God, Your Maſteſty has put your Affairs, and in the juſt Hopes you have of the Re-eſta bliſhment of your Allies, we were willing to paſs by the above-mention'd Fault, though it was enough to detain Perſons leſs ſcrupulous, and contented ourſelves with their Full-Powers, in the Condition as they are; provided they alſo forbore on their part, to ſtart the Difficulties, or rather, Pretences of Delay which they found, and that they would from henceforth enter ſeriously upon Buſineſs, and into a Conference with us: We have done yet more; for not to leave them the leaſt Excuse of Delay, with thoſe who deſire Peace, we added, that in caſe hereafter there ſhould be found any Term in the Preamble of our Powers, which offended the Niceneſs of any of their Allies, we offer'd to write of it to Your Maſteſty, in order to have it amended, in ſuch manner as the Mediators ſhould judge reaſonable. This Offer greatly pleas'd Sir *Lionel Jenkins*, as being conformable to the Expedient which was made uſe of at *Cologne*, and alſo to the Sincerity of his Intentions: Sir *William Temple* appear'd to us, on the contrary, to ſpare no Pains to propoſe it to the Ambaſſadors of *Holland*; and the Answer, which he made us, was a ſufficient Evidence, that he had back'd our Offers and Reaſons very weakly; for he told us, that having ſpoke with none but *Monſieur Haeren*, becauſe *Monſieur Be-verning*, his Collegue, excus'd himſelf on Account of ſome Indispoſition, the former return'd Answer, that he had conferr'd about the Matter with the other, but that they could not admit of our Powers without freſh Orders from their Maſters.

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We reserv'd to ourselves, at the same time, the Power of Contradicting that of the said Ambassadors, and having afterwards inform'd the Ambassadors of *Sweden* of all that had pass'd in that Affair, as also of the Answers we made to confute the Ambassadors of the *States-General*; we accepted of the Offer they made us, to acquaint their Friends, whom they have at the *Hague*, with it, to the end that the Truth might not be conceal'd from those who are well affected. We likewise sent them to Monsieur *Courtin*, that he might let the King of *England* see, 'tis not long of Your Majesty, that the Negotiation of Peace is no farther advanc'd. We are moreover oblig'd to represent to Your Majesty, that in the Full-Powers of the Ambassadors of the *States-General* at *Cologne*, in speaking of Your Majesty, they put the Title of the most Christian King, without adding any thing thereto, and in that which was deliver'd to us, there is only the King of *France*, without any other Appellation, either of the most Christian King, or the King of *Navarre*; but in regard that the Title of King of *France* is so Eminent, that it includes all other Kingdoms, States, or Countries, which do, or ought to appertain to Your Crown, we thought we need not make a stand at this Omission, and raise a Difficulty upon that, which according to our Judgment, could not produce any thing advantageous to your Service, amongst so many Allies of *Spain*, who would leave out nothing in the Preliminaries, how unjust soever, to the Prejudice of that Crown. Nevertheless, if Your Majesty shall command us, the Delay of the Ambassadors of the *States General*, will give us time enough to do it.

The Ambassadors of *Sweden* give us Occasion, from the Visit they just now paid us, to add farther

ther to this Letter, what they told us; which is, that they had an Answer from their Friends at the *Hague*, whom they acquainted with your Majesty's good Intentions, as to every thing which relates to the *States-General*; and also, with respect to such reasonable Proposals as should be made you, about an Exchange of some of the Frontier-Places; and that they would assure us, those Insinuations had produced all the good Effect that could be expected; that even the *States-General* had put off, till next Year, the taking any fresh Resolutions about the Engagements into which their Allies press them to enter; and that we might give an entire Credit to what they told us; their said Friends, on whom they depended, making a considerable Party, and being very much in Credit with the *States-General*; and that, in the mean time, perfectly to dispose the said *States* to a good Peace with *France*, they pray'd them, by the self-same Answer, to satisfy themselves about your Majesty's Intentions upon the Affair of *Lorrain*; because the said *States* being, at present, engaged in the Re-establishment of Prince *Charles*, cannot abandon his Interests. We reply'd to them, That what we had told them, was sufficient to give the *States-General* a Glympe of the most considerable Advantages for their Republick, in a perfect Reconciliation with your Majesty, and to oblige them to order their Ambassadors to begin the Conferences with us, and to make Proposals which might please you; that then they should have waited only till we could be more particularly informed of your Intentions, and yet less, while we explain'd ourselves. We believ'd, Sire, we ought, by this blunt sort of Answer, to be short with all those Questions which the Ambassadors often ask'd us, in order to discover what your Majesty is willing

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to remit, to procure them the Restitution of what they have lost, and to oblige them to wait, with Patience, till every thing was agreed upon in respect to the *States-Generals*; before they proceeded to other Discussions; and the rather, because they might hope, in time, for an Amendment of their Affairs.

The News which your Majesty has, without doubt, receiv'd of what has pass'd in *Schonen*, having been confirmed by the last Letters from the Ambassador of *Denmark*; the Mediators likewise say, that they expect to hear from that Country, one of the greatest Events that can be imagined; which is, to see the King of *Denmark* reduced to such Conditions, as it shall please the King of *Sweden* to lay upon him, in order to procure a Peace; if after the taking the Castle of *Edimbourg*, which, 'tis believ'd, will suddenly follow the Fate of the Town, the Troops of the King of *Sweden* can, besides, hinder the Retreat of the *Danes* towards *Landskröon*. At last, it appears that God will confound your Majesty's Enemies in all Places, and grant to the Justice of your Designs, all the good Success they merit. This is, Sire, the most zealous of all our Wishes, being, with a profound Respect, Sire, &c.

LETTER

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur
de Pomponne.

Dated November 24. 1676.

S I R,

BY the Memorial which we have annexed to our Diſpatches directed to the King, you will be inform'd of all the Difficulties which the Ambaſſadors of the *States-General* have rais'd upon the Preamble of our full Powers; but you will be yet more ſurprized, to hear, that the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden*, tho' our Allies, do equally oppoſe ſome of our Terms which are therein inſerted; amongſt the reſt, this, when in naming the City of *Nimeguen*, &c. For tho' they don't contradict them in their Name, they add ſo many Reaſons to thoſe of the Ambaſſadors of *Holland*, and they pretend 'tis impoſſible for all the Allies to approve of thoſe Terms, which, they ſay, denote too great a Superiority on the part of the King; that they leave no room to doubt, they feel themſelves more touched than our Enemies. Nevertheless, we have ſhewn them, that they are true, and that they have no Reaſon to take Exceptions; but we believe, Sir, it will be very difficult to get clear of this Preliminary Difficulty, unleſs it agrees with the Form of the full Powers, in conformity to which, all the Ambaſſadors obliging themſelves, in the name of their Maſters, to deliver them again into the Hands of the Mediators, by a certain Term, we might, in the mean time, enter upon Buſineſs. In the interim, we ſhall, purſuant to the King's and your Orders, do all that we ought, to juſtify and maintain

tain the Terms of those, which we have delivered. With regard to those of *Sweden*, the Ambassadors of the *States* make but two Objections against them; one concerning the Term of *Confederati*, because the Principal Allies are not denominated, and they gave the same Answer upon it as to us; the other is, against this Expression, *Ad arma suscipienda adacti sumus necessitate tuendi Instrumenti Pacis Westphalia*; but in regard there is nothing more true and honourable, you may well judge, Sir, all that they could reply to it, without our troubling you with it.

They still make pressing Instances to us, to confirm to the Mediators, what they have advanced upon the Declaration which, they say, Sir, you made to the Resident of *Sweden*, that the King would grant a Way thro' his Territories, for the passing of Couriers, that may be dispatched by the *Spaniards* from *Nimeguen* to *Madrid*; and they say, this would greatly enable them to obtain Leave of the Allies to dispatch Couriers into *Sweden*, which they urge, is absolutely necessary for them to inform themselves of the Intentions of the King their Master. We desire you, Sir, to let us know, what Answer we shall make them.

My Lord *Berkley*, who arrived here two days ago, has made heavy Complaints to us, because his Equipage has been stopp'd at *Rouen*. We hope, Sir, that you will dispatch him the necessary Passports; the good Intentions of that Mediator deserving to be regarded. We are, with Respect,
C^c.

LETTER

LETTER

From the King to the Ambaſſadors.

Dated November 26. 1676.

Cousin, Meſſieurs Colbert and Count d'Avaux ;
of your Diſpatches of the 13th and 17th in-
ſtant, the latter moſt requires an Answer. I have
obſerv'd with Pleaſure, that in the Exchange of
your Full-Powers with thoſe of the Ambaſſadors
of *Holland*, through the Hands of the Mediators,
you made the firſt Step towards a Peace, tho' ſo
remote from it.

The Readineſs with which Monſieur Beverning
answer'd the firſt Overture made by Sir *William*
Temple, is a Mark of the Inclination of his Maſters
for a Treaty, which is confirm'd to Me from all
Hands. You will ſee ſhortly after this Step, whe-
ther the Advices given Me of their good Inter-
tions, have any real Foundation. In the mean
time, I highly approve of the manner in which
you answer'd the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden*, upon the
Notice they gave you of what was writ to them
from the *Hague*, without entring too far upon the
Diſcuſſion of the Deſign of the Conditions of the
Treaty, which they ſay have been approv'd at
the *Hague* for a Peace. 'Tis ſufficient, that you
put them in a Capacity to remove, by the Inter-
poſition of their Friends in *Holland*, that Fear
which continues to increaſe there, that by My re-
mainig the moſt advanc'd Places, which have
been yielded to Me by *Spain*, I reſerve a Deſign to
carry a new War into their Frontiers: What you
have told them upon that Subject, tho' in general
Terms, may be of ſome Effect, till you can ex-
plain yourſelves upon it exactly, as Opportu-

nity shall offer, to the Ambassadors of the *States* themselves.

I have seen the Instances which were renew'd, with so much Justice, by the Ambassadors of *Sweden* to the Mediators, in order by their Intercession to obtain free Passage for their Letters; there is no reason to refuse them it, and still less to declare that 'tis a Design form'd to hinder the Negotiation. My Example alone should be of great Force, by reason of the Permission I always gave to the Couriers of *Spain* to pass through My Kingdom. I also think it expedient, that you should explain yourselves upon the Instances which the said Ambassadors of *Sweden* have made to you, even as I acquainted the King their Master a long time ago, that I am willing to grant to the Ambassadors of *Spain* the Liberty, which they have so much insisted upon, of Dispatching according to their Passports, extraordinary Couriers to *Madrid*; upon condition, nevertheless, that they do not enter into My Kingdom, but thro' *Switzerland*, and that they take their Road from *Nimeguen*, thro' *Cologne*, *Frankfort*, and the Forest Towns. In Exchange for this Facility, I desire it may be free for Me to dispatch Couriers to My Ambassadors at *Nimeguen*, and that they may, by Virtue of their Passports, dispatch others to Me. I desire also, that the Ambassadors of *Sweden* may have leave to send Dispatches to the King their Master, by Virtue of their Passports, and 'tis but just, that when I am willing to facilitate a Commerce and Correspondence with the Catholick King, I should also fix that of My Ambassadors, and the Ambassadors of My Allies. The Count *Oxenstiern*, and Monsieur *Olroenkrans*, will undoubtedly observe, with Satisfaction, that I make use of the Permission I would give the *Spaniards* to pass thro' My Territories, in order to procure the Liberty, which

which is so important for them, of sending Dispatches into *Sweden*: Thus as it ought to suffice to obtain the Passage of their Letters thro' *Germany* and *Denmark*, on Account of the Liberty those of *Spain* have to pass into My Kingdom; there is the same Reason, that they should, for My Ambassadors, open a way for the extraordinary Couriers to pass to *Nimeguen* and *Sweden*, seeing I am dispos'd to open one for *Spain*.

Tho' I knew well enough, that the Ambassadors of *England* and *Holland* would scarce support, with the Interest of their Masters, the Claim of the Dukes of *Newburg*, *Lunenbourg* and *Mecklenbourg*, which, after their Example, would become common with all the Princes of the Empire; yet I highly approve the Answer you made about the Letters of the former to the King of *Great-Britain*. It concerns the Emperor, and all the Kings, not to change a Custom, which has been establish'd in all Ages, and not to confound *Fus Legationis*, which was never acquir'd by all the Princes of *Germany*, and which privileges them to make Alliances, treat of Peace, and proclaim War, with the upper Hand, and Title of Excellency, which was never granted to their Ministers. So that you have done very well to retort this Difficulty upon *England*, *Spain*, and even the *States*, and to make appear, 'twas not My particular Fact. For the rest, I pray God, to take you, my Cousin, under his holy and worthy Tuition; and you, *Messieurs Colbert* and *Count d' Avaux*, under his sacred Protection, &c.

LETTER

LETTER

From the Ambassadors to Monsieur de Pomponne.

Dated November 27. 1676.

S I R,

WE receiv'd the Letter you did us the Honour to write to us of the 19th instant, with the Passport for Monsieur *Vaeller* at *Brussels*, who continues very honourably to send us all those we desire of him for the Domesticks we return back, or call hither for our Service.

We shall acquaint the Ambassadors of *Sweden*, with the Orders the King has given us, and all His Ministers, to second, as far as possible, the Negotiation of Monsieur *Puffendorff*, who having made no Stay here, and also conceal'd his Departure, has left no way for us, at present, to notify to him what you did us the Honour to write to us upon his Account, but by the said Ambassadors.

The last News which came from *Copenhagen*, give us Reason to believe, the *Swedes* will content themselves with having reliev'd *Malmö*, and plunder'd *Edimbourg*, without running the hazard of a Battle; also the Ambassador of *Denmark*, and all who are in the Interest of that Crown, seem a little reviv'd at present, out of the Consternation the former News put them under; but on the other hand, the Ambassadors of *Sweden* still give us Hopes that these late Actions of Vigour will be succeeded this Winter with more considerable Successes.

Sir, you are as yet importun'd with the Instances they have repeated to us, to renew the
Offer

Offer, which they say, was formerly made by His Majesty, touching the Passing of Couriers from *Flanders to Madrid*; and when you shall please, Sir, to communicate His Majesty's Intentions to us, we shall not fail to conform ourselves thereto.

We inform'd the King in our last, of the Difficulties which have been rais'd upon the Communication of the Full-Powers. The Mediators came to us since, and told us, the Ambassadors of the *States-General* were agreed, that the Fault we took Notice of in their Powers, was reasonable, and that they had writ to their Masters to have them amended; but they desir'd us at the same instant, that without losing time about Objections, Replies and Rejoinders, we would write to His Majesty, to desire him to shorten the Business, by sending us new Powers, in which all the Terms of the Preamble which give Trouble may be abolish'd: The said Mediators added, that the Ambassador of *Denmark*, and all the Ministers who are at the *Hague*, gave them to understand, there was nothing in their Powers, but most sincere Expressions of the Desire their Masters have to contribute all that lies in their Power to the Good of Peace. We reply'd, we had sufficiently made appear, there was no Term in ours, which could offend any body; That the Proposal of Reforming the Powers, was made only with a Design to put off the Negotiations of Peace, since it would be above two Months time, if not the whole Winter, before the Ambassadors of the King of *Sweden* could have any Answer from their Prince, by reason of the hindrance the King of *Denmark* gives to the Passage of the Letters; and besides, tho' that Prince should have Regard to the Objections, which the Ambassadors of the *States-General* make against the Power of his Ambassadors, it might happen notwithstanding, that when we and they
should

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should produce the Powers in such manner as they desire, their Allies might immediately start new Difficulties; by which means, the whole Winter would be spent in Preliminary Evasions, which would unravel all the hopes *Christendom* had entertain'd of Peace; That if the *States-General* would seriously go about it, the Offers which they the Mediators made them on our part, were sufficient for them to treat with us in Safety, since they could not find any essential Fault in our Powers, nor deny that they were instituted in due Form. We went yet farther; for, seeing we perceiv'd by all the Discourses of Sir *William Temple*, that the said Ambassadors of the *States-General* were willing to wait for the Orders of their Masters, upon Account of the said Full Powers, and that their Design was to temporize till their Allies are arriv'd; we thought it for the Service of the King to lay the Fault yet farther upon them, by declaring, as we did to the said Mediators, that tho' His Majesty had carefully observ'd to insert no Terms in our Full-Powers, which might be an Obstruction to the Negotiations of Peace, nevertheless, if there were some, which they themselves were of Opinion ought to be amended, or if they would have a common Form for all the Plenipotentiaries, we hop'd His Majesty would also dispatch us new ones after the manner they shall concert with us; provided, upon that Assurance, the Ambassadors of the *States-General* would henceforth, and without expecting new Orders, enter seriously upon Business with us. But, Sir, we believ'd His Majesty would also have blam'd us, if in the present Conjunction, we left our Enemies the least Pretence to charge us with the Delay of the Peace; and it even appears to us, that this Offer has already produc'd a very good Effect; for Yesterday, Monsieur *Haeren* told one of us, that having been

to condole Madam *Haeren* upon the Death of a Brother-in-Law, he and Monsieur *Beverning*, his Collegue, had already declar'd to Monsieur *Hoeb*, Ambassador of *Denmark*, and Monsieur *Blaespiel*, who is here in the same Quality, on the part of the Elestor of *Brandenburg*, that they had carefully avoided all manner of Conference with us hitherto, even to a Degree of Incivility, because they would not give Umbrage to those who were more distrustful; but that as soon as an Ambassador should arrive here, either from the Emperor, or from *Spain*, nay tho' there should come none, by eight or ten Days at farthest, they design to see us in a familiar manner, and enter with us upon Business. The said Monsieur *Haeren* added, they hop'd to become Mediators, and act more effectually than Sir *William Temple*, whose affected Slowness, they gave us to understand, did not please them; he also said, that the Offers we had made with regard to the Full-Powers, fully convinc'd them of the Sincerity of the King's Intentions; That they hop'd, those Difficulties would be determin'd in three or four Days time; and that if the *Spaniards* continu'd to be unreasonable, they should be able shortly to reduce them; and oblige them to make Peace.

The Ambassador of *Denmark* gave us a Visit, immediately after he had paid those of the Mediators. Sir, we are most sincerely, entirely devoted to your Service, &c.

LETTER

LETTER

*From the Ambassadors to Monsieur
de Pomponne.*

Dated December 1. 1676.

S I R,

WE think it our Duty to inform you of what pass'd last *Saturday*, on account of the first Visits which we paid my Lord *Berkley*. He granted to each of us an Audience. The first of us was receiv'd at Two of the Clock in the Afternoon; the second, half an Hour after; and the third, at Three of the Clock. Tho' we did not believe the Ambassadors of *Denmark* dreamt of disputing with us, or that the Ambassadors of *Sweden* would have rais'd a Quarrel, however we concert'd our Visits so well, that when one of us came from my Lord *Berkley*, he met in the Way, him who was to have his Audience immediately after. So that, without losing any Time between the Visits, the last of us set out, even before Three of the Clock; notwithstanding which, he was scarce arriv'd at my Lord *Berkley's*, and had but just begun to pass his Compliments, when Coaches were heard in the Court, and Notice was brought, that it was the Count of *Exambien*. My Lord *Berkley* was very much surprized, and said, That he would go to receive him, and conduct him into an adjoining Chamber. Our Colleague, who was with my Lord, stay'd there long enough not to meet with the Ambassador of *Sweden* upon the Stair-Case, and to give him time to enter another Chamber. But as he was going down with my Lord *Berkley*, he heard, that Monsieur

ſieur *Oxenſtiern*, after he had enter'd the Court with his two Coaches and fix Horſes each, and cauſ'd all the Gentlemen of his Retinue to light out of their Coaches, finding none of my Lord *Berkley's* Domelticks at the Gate to receive him, (becauſe they were buſied in another Audience) would not ſtay till they had time to come to meet him, but turned back again with a great deal of Anger. This, Sir, is within our Knowledge, and about which we are not diſagreed. What we have ſince heard, is, that my Lord *Berkley* preſently ſent to *Monſieur Oxenſtiern*, to tell him, he would give him an Audience a quarter of an Hour before Four of the Clock; and that he ſhould expect him by that time. My Lord's Gentleman was told, that *Monſieur Oxenſtiern* was not there. My Lord *Berkley* ſent again a ſecond time, and gave in Charge to tell him, the Ambaſſador of *Denmark* had preſſed him to give Audience, but he had put him off; and that he gave him Notice of it, to the end that he might come to viſit him before. He was answer'd, That *Monſieur Oxenſtiern* had been there at the time appointed, and that, he ſuppoſed, they look'd upon that Appearance for a Viſit, and that they might return it him. And the Gentleman demanding, Whether *Monſieur Olivenkrantz* would not make his Viſit? becauſe he had not been yet with my Lord; Answer was made, That *Monſieur Olivenkrantz* would conform himſelf to *Monſieur Oxenſtiern*. My Lord *Berkley* ſending thither again next day, *Monſieur Oxenſtiern* ſaid, he would take Advice of his Friends; and *Monſieur Olivenkrantz* being arriv'd there, and having had a Conſultation together, they returned the ſame Answer, as they did before. My Lord *Berkley* having conſulted, on his ſide, with his two Collegues, they believ'd the King their Maſter would not approve

prove of his going to see the Ambassadors of *Sweden*, neither of whom had yet made him a Visit; so that he receiv'd that of the Ambassador of *Denmark*, and with respect to the Ambassadors of *Sweden*, he writ thereof to the King his Master, for Orders about them, and to complain of their Proceedings. We thought, at first, that Ambassador did not aim at us, on this Occasion, and that his End was only to prevent that of *Denmark*. But the Consequence gave us as great Suspicions, that Monsieur *Oxenstiern* sought to make a Difficulty, by which, if he did not dispute it in form, however he would have made a shew of not yielding, by stepping in between us. For, 'tis plain, that Monsieur *Oxenstiern* came much about half an Hour before the time, when my Lord *Berkley* fix'd him his Audience. Besides, he could not be ignorant, that we had our Audiences appointed before his; and, in regard he is a very near Neighbour, he might, with the greatest Ease, have inform'd himself of the Moment when the last of us Three went away; especially when, as 'tis reported, he had Footboys at the Corners of some Streets; but besides, he had no Obligation to make such great Haste, since it only remain'd for himself, Monsieur *Olivenkranz*, and those of *Holland*, whose Audiences were not fix'd till the next day. What farther confirms us in this Thought, is, that three days ago, when this Difficulty happen'd, which the Mediators came to talk with us about, to learn of us, what we knew of it, the Ambassadors of *Sweden* told us nothing of it, tho' we had seen them twice apart since that time, and notwithstanding it was a Matter of great Importance for them to communicate it to us, and to desire our Advice and Assistance, tho' the Affair did not relate to us. Moreover, we know, that Monsieur *Oxenstiern* declared,

declar'd three Months ago at the *Hague*, that he would not yield to us in any reſpect; and he has already declin'd from going to ſee the Ambaſſador of *Denmark* the ſame Day that we did, and has ſtay'd three entire Days ſince, under a very weak Pretence of being in trouble for the Loſs of a Daughter, who dy'd at two Months old. This has not hinder'd the Ambaſſador of *Denmark*, whatever it may be, from perceiving that *Monſieur Oxenſtiern* deſign not to make him a Viſit, till he has return'd all his own; that he may make it appear, the Reaſon why he had not ſeen the Ambaſſador of *Denmark*, was becauſe he was not at Home.

Theſe, Sir, are the Particulars at large, which we have ſet down; but we are very glad, once for all, that the King knows with whom we have to do, and that His Maſteſty is inform'd, that *Monſieur Oxenſtiern*, far from endeavouring to join the Parties, that we may ſee all together, would render all manner of Correſpondence impracticable, by his uneaſie captious Temper; as he has already begun, by the Difficulties he has rais'd; but the Mediators, and all the other Ambaſſadors here, are agreed, that he keeps no Rank with the Ladies. After this manner, we continue to aſſemble ourſelves, and hope, when once Affairs are in motion, that theſe ſorts of Correſpondences will give us cauſe often to talk of Matters, and to draw thence ſome Advantage for the King's Service. You ſee, Sir, that we have need to look to ourſelves in the Viſits we are to make to the Ambaſſadors of the Emperor, and thoſe of *Spain*. We ſhall uſe ſo good a Decorum in them, that we hope to maintain the Honour of our Character, as far as lies in our Power. We had made our Viſits all three ſeparately, to the end they might return a ſeparate Viſit to every one of us, but to avoid Inconveniencies, and to go with more Power,

we have resolv'd, in concert with the Mediators, that we will go all three together to the first separate Visits. The Mediators have brought us the Answer of the Ambassadors of the *States*, concerning the Full-Powers; which is, that their Masters having taken Notice of the Faults which were in them, had amended them, and sent them others; so that by this means, they were ready to enter upon Business, if we would engage ourselves in Writing, That the King should send us Powers according to the Model drawn by the Mediators. We answer'd, that if the Ambassadors of *Holland* would have begun the Conferences in eight or ten Days time, without writing to the *States-General*, as we propos'd to them, we should have been all ready to have done it; but since they were willing to wait for the Answer of their Masters, 'twas but reasonable, we should wait for Orders from the King, to whom we had given an Account of the matter. The Mediators approv'd of this, and the rather, because they were agreed, this was conformable to our Proposal, and that by *Sunday*, we might know His Majesty's Will; add to this, that the Powers being good and valid, if the Ambassadors of *Holland* are not satisfy'd with them, it is only to avoid entring upon Business, till their Allies are here, who will arrive this Week. So that when we should have agreed in this Point, they would have started another Difficulty; besides, 'tis impossible for us to be in the Mind to engage ourselves to induce the King to grant a Power, or to make His Majesty speak in a Preamble, otherwise than he pleases. Forasmuch as the Ambassadors of *Sweden* cannot have an Answer within two Months, and by reason of that length of time, have more ample Powers than us to agree upon the Preliminaries, they have accepted the Proposal; so that, Sir, we have

have nothing more to do, than to wait His Majesty's Orders thereupon.

The Count of *Kinsky*, and Monsieur *Straatsman*, who is the third Ambassador of the Emperor, are arriv'd at *Cleves*, and we even believe they are come hither *incognito*, to find Houses for their Residence.

Sir, we ought, before we end this Letter, to give you the Character of my Lord *Berkley*, who has behav'd himself in every Affair that has occur'd, with so great an Esteem, or to speak better, Justice for *France*, by saying publickly at his own House, That he knew his Duty; That we are the Ambassadors of the greatest Monarch upon the Earth; and that the Ambassadors of *Sweden* should not have thought of Disputing with us; that there is nothing more to be wish'd, than that he had Power enough to be able to put all his good Intentions in Execution. Amidst the Concern we have, that the Quarrel between my Lord *Berkley*, and Monsieur *Oxenstiern*, might be speedily decided, we have heard from my Lord *Berkley*, and from the Envoy of *Sweden*, who is return'd from *France*, that they have voluntarily chose us to be Mediators on both sides. So that, Sir, we hope to do ourselves the Honour to inform you by the next Post, that this Affair is happily determin'd. We are with Respect, entirely at your Service, &c.

LET.

LETTER

From the King to the Ambassadors.

Dated December 3. 1676.

Cousin, Messieurs Colbert and Count d'Avaux; forasmuch as your Letter of the 20th ult. shew'd me the Reflexions you had made upon the Full-Powers of the Plenipotentiaries of the States-General which were deliver'd you by the Mediators, that of the 24th inform'd Me of the affected Difficulties which the said Plenipotentiaries rais'd upon yours: They have so little Foundation that they may be look'd upon, only as a Design form'd to retard the Negotiation, and by these Cavils, to give the Ministers of their Allies time enough to arrive at *Nimeguen*. The manner after which you answer'd, as to the Points they singled out, was such as sufficed to remove real Scruples, if they had been well grounded. They cannot reasonably find Fault, because I talk of the Justice of my Arms in this War, express my Sorrow that the Assembly has been without Effect, lest the King of *Denmark* out of the Number of my Enemies, when he is not one yet; and because I have spoke of the Mediation of the Pope, when the same had been already accepted by the Emperor and the Catholick King. There is more reason to complain, that I have mark'd out the Modifications I allow'd of, at the Request of the King of *England*, for the Liberty of Prince *William*, the Performance whereof I expected from the Emperor, because he having publickly declar'd to Me, that I should send no Ambassadors to the Place of Treaty, seeing the Prince was not altogether free,

free all Europe ſhould know, that I exchang'd this Reſolution only upon the Requeſt which was made me by the King of *Great-Britain*. After this manner, it may be ſaid, any of thoſe Points almoſt deſerve Reflexion. Perhaps I might make a few more, whatſoever Truth there be in the Faſt, about that Part of it where I ought to have nominated the Town of *Nimeguen* for the Place of the Conferences, which I did name in effect, even as you remark'd in your Answers, rather than leave any Difficulty upon the Word about which the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden* alſo ſeem to be concerned.

I deſire, that when the Matter is come to an Extremity, you turn it into another; for that by putting in the Word *propoſe* inſtead of *nominate*, there is reaſon to believe, all the Difficulty will be taken away. But, perhaps, you will have no occaſion to condeſcend to that Modification; and forasmuch as the Plenipotentiaries of the States made uſe of theſe Evasions, only to gain a few Days, perhaps they will inſiſt no longer thereupon, than till they have produced their Effect: But if, nevertheless, contrary to all Appearance, they continue to preſs it, I think it proper, you ſhould make uſe of the Expedient I put into your Hands, concerning the Propoſal of the Town of *Nimeguen*; and that you allow of the nominating of the King of *Denmark*, even as I ſee you have already done, in a particular Full Power, in caſe his Miniſters deſire it. I ſhould believe that thoſe Accommodations would ſuffice to put a ſtop to Pretences too viſibly affected; and I cannot judge there is any occaſion, even as you ſeem, to apprehend, to eſtabliſh a Precedent for the Preamble of the Full Powers concerted between the Parties. This Practice would be too contrary to the Cuſtom which has been obſerved in all Ages, upon

the like Occasions, where the Princes have explain'd themselves in such a Form as they judg'd necessary to authorize the Ambassadors. But if notwithstanding, contrary to all Likelihood, the *States-General* and their Allies, should insist, in such a manner, upon the Difficulties they have already made, or which they may farther start, so far as to give Grounds to fear they would by that means hinder the Negotiation from being carried on; in that case, if the Mediators propose an Expedient to you, to agree about a common Form for all the Parties, I would not have you absolutely reject that Proposition, but by taking upon you to give me an Account of it, leave them Hopes that I may agree to it. I don't see, but if Sir *William Temple* had acted with the same Temper as Sir *Lionel Jenkins*, he had easily put a Stop to so light an Obstacle; and I doubt not but when he shall be requir'd, he can render the Ambassadors of the *States* guilty of the like Foundation there is for the like Difficulties. Those which you can raise upon the Words you remarked in the full Powers of the Ambassadors of the *States-General*, have a much more lawful Basis. I think it expedient, nevertheless, that in case those cease which have been made you, you should not make a Stop thereon; and I don't think you ought to form any upon their Omission of the Title of *Most Christian*, in the Name of the King of France.

I have observed, the Intelligence the Ambassadors of Sweden have given you of the good Effect produced in *Holland*; from their acquainting their Friends there of my good Intentions for the *States-General*; but so far as they added a Desire, to know my Sentiments about the Affair of *Lorraine*, I am pleas'd you let them know, you could not enter upon that Affair, and that it sufficed,

ſufficed, that the *States-General* were informed of my Sentiments, as to what regards them; like-
wiſe you ought not to go any farther upon that
Queſtion; in caſe it ſhould be repeated to you.
For the reſt, I pray God to take you, my Couſin,
into his holy and worthy Tuition, and you Meſ-
ſieurs Colbert and Count d'Avaux, into his Sacred
Protection.

Written at St. Germain en Laye, the 3d day of
December, 1676. Sign'd LOUIS; and un-
derſcrib'd, ARNAULD.

L E T T E R

From Monſieur de Pomponne to the
Ambaſſadors.

Dated December 3. 1676.

S I R,

T Here cannot be Pretences more weak and af-
feſted, than thoſe which the *States-General*
have made uſe of to keep themſelves from Begin-
ning the Negotiations; tho' they had but juſt
promiſed it. You will ſee by his Maſtey's Diſ-
patches, the Remedies he is willing to apply
thereto; and rather than hinder the ſpeedy Be-
ginning of the Conferences, he would, if the Me-
diators propos'd it, and all the Parties ſhould
hereafter deſire it, accept of the Expedient for a
general Form of the Full Powers. Nevertheless,
this Form would be contrary to Cuſtom, and, per-
haps, the Miniſters of the *States-General*, and their
Allies, will be ſo reaſonable, not to let Matters
come to this Paſs. Gentlemen, you have well judg-
ed, that in the Omiſſion of the Mareſchal d' Eſtrades
in the Full Powers, it was the Fault of the Tranſ-
criber; ſo that you may engage yourſelves, if

you please, to give another, in which this Fault should be repaired.

An Officer dispatch'd from Monsieur de Vivonne, brought his Majesty, two days ago, the News of the Taking of *Scaletta*. The Garrison, which consisted of 1200 Men, surrender'd, after a Fort-night's Siege; and this Fort, which is strongly seated, and placed the *Spaniards* almost at the Gates of *Messina*, lays open a great Country to his Majesty's Army, and very easy Passage for Provisions to the Territories of *Messina*. I am, Gentlemen, with all the Esteem and Sincerity that can be, entirely devoted to your Service, &c.

LETTER

From the Ambassadors to the King.

Dated December 4. 1676.

SIRE,

WE have laboured these two days past, about the Accommodation of the Difference between my Lord *Berkley* and Count *Oxenstiern*. The most proper Expedient that we have found out, is, that the first Visits of Ceremony between those two Gentlemen, should pass as if they had been given and repaid on both sides; that they should meet at Madame *Colbert's*, where they should discourse, and then Monsieur *Olivenkrams* should go to see my Lord *Berkley* in Ceremony, who should return his Visit in the same Form; after which, they should continue to visit all for the future, as if no Quarrel had happen'd, and all things should take their natural and ordinary Course. We believed it was more advantageous for Monsieur *Oxenstiern*, that he should suppose the Visit already paid him, than due at this time, because he could

could not have been visited till after the Ambassador of *Denmark*, tho' he went to my Lord *Berkeley's* before him; but notwithstanding we have the Promise of those two Ministers, the Execution of it is deferr'd till to morrow, because we understand *Sir William Temple* went this Day to the *Hague*, and we have reason to believe he would not have been sorry if this Difference had lasted longer, since he told *Monfieur Oxenstiern* that he thought him oblig'd to notify that they had writ about that Affair to the King of *England*, and that they could not think of any Accommodation till they had receiv'd his Answer, and he has since certify'd that he would write about it in Particular, and he hop'd *Monfieur Oxenstiern* would have all possible Satisfaction. This made *Monfieur Oxenstiern* judge as well as we, that the Accommodation should be hasten'd for fear of the ill Offices which might be done my Lord *Berkeley*, and we ought to go and acquaint *Sir Lionel Jenkins* therewith, who in all Appearance is a Person of the most Integrity.

Sire, we have made known to the Ambassadors of *Spain*, the Liberty they have to dispatch extraordinary Couriers to *Madrid*, by Virtue of their Passports, after the manner and under the Conditions you inform'd us by your Dispatches of the last Month. The said Gentlemen express'd abundance of Joy, and all the Gratitude imaginable; and are perswaded this will be a very good Method for them to obtain what they earnestly wish for. We have not explain'd ourselves thereupon to the Mediators, and we thought it proper to stay till they desire of us to give them a clear Insight into what the Ambassadors of *Sweden* gave them to understand, because by that means we shall likewise notify to the Ambassadors of *Sweden*, that Your Majesty grants this Liberty only in Re-

gard to them. We shall render the Affair the more feasible, on Account that if we propose it ourselves, we shall be the Petitioners; and the Opinion the *Spaniards* would entertain, that we had some particular View in this Proposal, would perhaps hinder them from accepting it. We are, with a profound Respect, Sire, &c.

LETTER

From the Ambassadors to Monsieur de Pomponne.

Dated December 4. 1676.

S I R,

WE have done ourselves the Honour to give an Account to the King of the Accommodation of the Difference between my Lord *Berkley* and Count *Oxenstiern*. It was all we had to say this Post; for till we have receiv'd His Majesty's Answer about our Powers, Affairs will continue in Suspence. The Secretary of Monsieur *Fenquiere* went away this Morning with Monsieur *Lilienrooy*, who has been very serviceable to us during his Stay here. Sir *William Temple* is to set out this Day for the *Hague*. We are, Sir, entirely at your Services.

After we had clos'd this Letter, the Mediators came to tell us, that the Bishop of *Utrecht* has made known to the Magistracy of the Town, That Monsieur *Palavicini*, the Popes Nuncio at *Cologne*, having receiv'd Orders from His Holiness to repair to this City about the Negotiations of Peace, desired to know what Orders he should have from the *States* for the Security of his Person; and the Magistrates having made their

Applica-

Application to Monsieur Beverning, that Ambaſſador gave the Mediators to underſtand, that his Maſters being not inclin'd to make uſe of the Mediation of the Pope, it would be Wiſdom in the ſaid Mediators, to diſpoſe us to diſſuade him from his Journey, and let him know 'tis more proper for him to fix his Stay at *Cleves*, or at *Raveſtin*, than at *Nimeguen*. We answer'd, tho' His Maſteſty had always declar'd he ſhould have been ſatisfy'd with the ſole Mediation of the King of *England*, nevertheless that of the Pope having been accepted by him, as well as by the Emperor, *Spain*, and all the Princes who own'd the Church of *Rome*, we were far from diſſuading His Holineſs's Nuncio from coming hither; and therefore we left the *States-General* to act according to the Dictates of their Reaſon. The time does not permit us, Sir, to inform you of the Reflexions we make upon that Affair, but we are conſtrain'd to defer it till the next Poſt. We are, Sir, entirely at your Service.

D 4

LETTER

LETTER

From the Ambassadors to Monsieur
de Pomponne.

Dated December 8. 1676.

SIR,

WE always hop'd, that few Days of this Month would have gone over our Heads, but we should have been busie in the Advancement of Peace, and that every Post would have furnish'd us with Matters worthy of a Letter to the King. In the mean time, here is a Quarter Part of it already spent in a profound Silence, and we are very sensible, that how just soever our Answers are, which we have made to the Difficulties form'd by the Ambassadors of the *States-General* upon our Powers, they will make no Proposal, but that we obtain new ones, without a Preamble, even as they have done on their Part; or that we acquiesce in the Expedient to promise reciprocally to represent by a certain time that they may be like the Form which the Mediators shall institute. We have already wrote, Sir, that the Ambassadors of *Sweden* have agreed thereto, and that we expect His Majesty's Sentiments thereupon, with which we hope to be set in a clear Light by the next Post. You know, Sir, that at *Munster*, after abundance of Punctillioes, which took up a great deal of time to no Purpose, at length every one consented to reform his Powers, and when either side took notice of some Faults well or ill ground-ed, they desisted never the more. In the mean time, we shall keep ours with that Constancy we ought, till we have Orders to let them go. Mon-
sieur

ſieur *Beverning* has ſhewn a great deal of Impatience to the Mediators, to ſee theſe Difficulties determin'd, and aſſur'd them he would not ſtay for the Allies of his Maſters before he enter'd upon Buſineſs. Sir *William Temple* has alſo given over the Journey he was juſt going to make to the *Hague*, upon the Solicitations which he told us were made him by the ſaid *Monſieur Beverning* to ſtay; ſo that we doubt not but as ſoon as we ſhall have ſatisfy'd the Deſire of the ſaid Ambaſſadors of the *States-General* concerning our Powers, they will offer to make their Propoſals to come to a Treaty of Peace, and the Mediators will preſs us to deliver ours at the ſame time in Writing into their Hands. My Lord *Berkley* alſo told one of us, yeſterday, as a Secret, that it was the Opinion of his Colleagues to deal with us after this manner, to conform themſelves to what was done at *Munſter*. In the mean time, you know, Sir, the infinite Length of that Negotiation, which muſt be attributed partly to the manner of Proceeding therein by Propoſals and Answers. So that we think the readieſt way to obtain a Peace is, to treat only verbally, either by the manner of the Mediators, or directly by the Ambaſſadors of the *States-General*; and only to commit to writing the Articles that ſhall be agreed upon by both Parties. If His Maſteſty thinks this Propoſal moſt conducive to the Good of his Affairs, we ſhall not fail to notiſe to the Mediators all the Inconveniencies of the former, and ſhall ſpeak according to our laſt Orders or Inſtructions. If on the contrary, he judges we ought to adhere to the Sentiments of the ſaid Mediators, as it imports his Service, that the more the *Spaniards* delay the Negotiations of Peace in diſappointing the Miniſters of the *States-General*, the more they will be ſatisfy'd with our Diligence, we thought it neceſſary,

Jary, Sir, to send you beforehand a Scheme of the first Proposals we design to make; and we most humbly intreat you to let us know His Majesty's Intentions, as soon as possibly you can, to the end that we may be capacitated to let the Ambassadors of the *States-General* see; 'tis not long of us that the good Dispositions which they have to forward the Negotiations of Peace, have not forthwith all the Success which they earnestly wish for from them: Sir, you will see that in this Scheme we have exactly follow'd the Orders given us in our first Instructions. With regard to the Preamble, if the King does not think it expedient to send us new Powers, we will remit what he makes mention of; farthermore, tho' we have not hitherto treated with the Ambassadors of the *States-General*, and whereas we have just cause enough to defer explaining ourselves in what relates to the Emperor, and King of *Spain*, till the Ministers of their *Imperial* and *Catholic* Majesties are come hither, and also till they have communicated their Full-Powers, and reciprocally given their Proposals; nevertheless, seeing it imports in our Opinion for the Service of the King, to let the *States-General* see that we are willing to open our Minds to them about a general Peace, and the Methods for making it, and that 'tis rather to pursue the Interest of our Enemies, than our own, to ground our Reserves and Delays upon the Methods which are brought for the Negotiations, you will see, Sir, what agrees best with the Affairs of the King, and we shall conform ourselves, for that end, to what you shall please to write to us of His Majesty's Intentions.

Sir, we also desire you to write to us about the Affair of Prince *William* of *Furstemberg*, whether we ought to sollicite for his Enlargement in our first Proposals, or whether His Majesty does not judge

judge it more expedient, in case that when we should give them to the Mediators, the Ambassadors of the Emperor, and of Spain, being not yet arriv'd, we should defer to speak of it till they were come, in order to forbear engaging in a Negotiation with the *States-General* before the Propounding of a Business which draws along with it more Difficulties than every thing that we have to treat about with the said *States-General*.

Yesterday we made the Accommodation. We have given ourselves the Honour to inform you of all that has pass'd between my Lord *Berkley* and Count *Oxenstiern*; They seem'd both very well satisfy'd, as well as Sir *William Temple* and Sir *Lionel Jenkins*, whom we inform'd of it before it was concluded.

The Difficulties which the Ambassadors of the *States-General* were like to have made about the Reception of the Nuncio, whereof we gave you an Account last Post, are also at present entirely determin'd, the Magistracy of this City having declar'd that when that Minister pleas'd to come hither, they would pay him all due Honours.

Lastly, Sir, there appears to us no Design of Trick on the part of the *States-General*, and we have reason to believe, when once we have enter'd upon Business with them, the Negotiation will not languish more. We are, Sir, entirely at your Service.

LETTER

*From Monsieur de Pomponne to the
Ambassadors.*

Dated December 10. 1676.

Gentlemen,

TH E particular Letter which you were pleas'd to write to me, and which is the only one I have receiv'd from you this Week, is fill'd almost with the same Affairs, of which you gave His Majesty an Account by the last Post; so that by the Dispatches which he wrote to you eight Days ago, you are inform'd of his Sentiments touching the affected Difficulties which the Ambassadors of *Holland* have stirr'd up about some Words contain'd in your Full-Powers; you also see, that he has embrac'd the Expedient you propos'd to him to agree at the last Extremity about a common Form for the Full-Powers, if it should become absolutely necessary to put an end to those Obstructions which have hinder'd the Negotiation; and tho' you went beyond His Majesty's Orders upon that Affair, he nevertheless approves of the Proposal you have made; so that as to the Conditions you added, that the *States-General* should actually enter upon Business with you, His Majesty thinks it proper you should engage yourselves to subscribe the Form of the Full-Powers, which should be drawn by the Mediators in concert with all the Parties. If nevertheless good Credit is to be given to those Preliminaries, it will not be necessary to come to that Expedient; since it is but too visible that those pretended Difficulties were only sought after to gi. e time

to

to the Arrival of the Plenipotentiaries of the *Catholick King*, and of the *Emperor*. However, a little time will let you ſee whether *Monſieur Beverning* ſpoke ſincerely to you, when he declar'd that whether they were at *Nimeguen*, or not, by eight or ten Days, they would enter upon a Conference with you. His Majesty wiſhes it ſo much the more, becauſe the Manner wherein he permitted you to notiſe his Eſteem for the *States-General*, may excite them farther either to procure a general Peace, or to make their private Treaty, when they ſaw too great a Delay on the Part of their Allies. His Majesty alſo wiſhes that *Monſieur Beverning* had ſpoke ſincerely, when he declar'd, he made Account that the Ambaſſadors of *Holland* would become true Mediators, ſince 'tis certain that no other Mediation would be ſo powerful as theirs, if when they were ſatisfy'd with the Conditions the King has permitted you to offer them, they ſhew'd *Spain* was under a Neceſſity to agree with their Sentiments, or to continue the War alone.

Since the Writing of this Letter, I receiv'd yours of the firſt Inſtant, the whole Subſtance of which is about what paſſ'd at the Audience of the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden* with my Lord *Berkley*. One can't too much wonder that *Monſieur Oxenſtiern* ſhould have the Thought of Intercepting you; you having been alſo in a Capacity of Accommodating the Affair with my Lord *Berkley*, there cannot be a more publick Teſtimony, as he himſelf knows, and without doubt, by an unanimous Approbation, how unwarrantable was his Pretence which this Quarrel at *Nimeguen* made appear. It will be undoubtedly a Piece of News to *Europe*, that *Sweden* ſhould offer to diſpute with *France*. In the mean time, tho' it was a difficult Matter for my Lord *Berkley*

try to take any other side than that which you was pleas'd with; His Majesty yet observes with Satisfaction, the Manner after which he acted on this Occasion.

I have receiv'd the Passport of the *States-General*, which you took the Pains to send me for the Count *de Rebecq*; Gentlemen, I desire you to continue your Offices to obtain the others that are necessary for him. The Marquis *de Vitry* has leave to return; but His Majesty is not willing he should make use of it, till the Post which he possesses be filled with another. I am, Gentlemen, with all possible Sincerity, entirely devoted to your Service, &c.

L A T T E R

From the Ambassadors to the King.

Dated December 11. 1676.

SIRE,

THE Dispatches, wherewith it pleas'd Your Majesty to honour us of the 3d instant, give us occasion to make still new Attempts with the Mediators, to convince them, and consequently, the Ambassadors of the *States-General*, of the little Ground there is for those Difficulties, which the latter have form'd upon the Preamble of our Full-Powers. And without troubling Your Majesty with the tedious Particulars of our Debates, we think, we can assure you with Truth, we have omitted nothing that could prove the absolute Necessity of the Expressions, which, the said Ambassadors demand, may be reform'd. We also propos'd the Expedient whereto Your Majesty was pleas'd to agree, for inserting

inserting the Term to propose the City of *Nime-guen* for the Place of Conferences, instead of the word *nominate*; provided the latter, tho' true, made the *States-General* uneasy; and we added that you would consent to name the King of *Denmark* in a particular Full-Power, in case his Ministers demanded it. The Substance of all the Argument the Mediators us'd with us, was, that the Ambassadors of the *States-General* had amended the Default we remark'd in their Full-Powers, and were ready to make their Proposals at this very instant, if we would, according to the Example of the Ambassadors of *Sweden*, promise to return new ones, by a certain time, after the manner which should be agreed on; That there were only two Ways to attain to the Negotiations; the one very tedious, by justifying on both sides, the Powers which had been communicated; the other very short, and to which we were oblig'd to have recourse in the Negotiation of *Munster*; viz. to remove reciprocally all the Terms of the Full-Powers, which might offend any one of the Parties; and that all the Ambassadors on both sides should oblige themselves to produce others, by a certain time, agreeable to the Scheme thus amended; by Virtue of which reciprocal Promise, and the first Powers, we might instantly enter upon Business, and forward the Negotiations of Peace without losing time. We gave them to understand, we were not now in the same Circumstance, as at *Munster*, when that Expedient was made use of; there having been in that first Assembly a great Number of Ambassadors, whereas at present, we were only to treat with the Ambassadors of the *States-General*, who insist upon Demands, which those of the Emperor, the King of *Spain*, and of all the Princes who own'd the Church of *Rome*, would

would forbear to make, such as that for retrenching the Clause concerning the Pope's Mediation; That at *Munster* the Powers of the Ambassadors of *Spain* being found very defective, there was an absolute Necessity to reform them; That tho' those of *France* contain'd nothing but the Truth, nevertheless, there were Expressions which might give cause to the Enemies of *France* to be offended; and whereas there was not one Word throughout the Preamble, which she was oblig'd to insert, in order to notifie her true Sentiments to all *Europe*; nor any Term that might give the said Ambassadors the least Doubt of the Validity of their Powers; they ought, if they had good Intentions, to enter henceforth upon Business; and the rather, because we would not refuse to treat with them, even tho' they should have no other Powers than those which they communicated to us, notwithstanding the Fault which we took Notice of in them. They only reply'd to us, with a great deal of Boldness, that they would make a Report to the Ambassadors of the *States-General*, of what we had said; but that they believ'd those Preliminary-Difficulties could not be determin'd so soon as they expected, because both sides seem'd persuaded of the Reason there is in what they have once advanc'd. Sire, This is the Condition wherein we have left this Affair, about which the Mediators make us afraid that Your Majesty's Enemies endeavour to destroy the good Opinion they have at the *Hague*, of the Sincerity of Your Intentions for the Advancement of Peace; one of them having intimated Yesterday to Me, *Avaux*, the bad Effects that our last Answer might produce. We all judg'd it proper to give him hopes, according to Your Majesty's Permission, that if hereafter, and when

when there ſhould be a greater Number of Ambaſſadors here, the ſaid Mediators ſhould think it abſolutely neceſſary to agree about ſome Modification; Your Maſtey would have a very great Regard to their Sentiments; but that in the mean time, we expected from their Equity, that they would notiſe to the Ambaſſadors of the *States-General*, the little Reason they have, for their own particular part, to inſiſt with ſuch Reſolution upon Difficulties ſo ill grounded. We are, with a profound Reſpect,
Sire, &c.

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur
de Pomponne.

Dated December 11. 1676.

SIR,
YOU may ſee by the Letter we have given ourſelves the Honour to write to the King, that tho' the Difficulties which the Ambaſſadors of the *States-General* have form'd about our Powers, are ill grounded, they are nevertheleſs obſtinate in maintaining them, and how good ſoever our Arguments are, yet the Mediators ſeem ſtill perſuaded there is no way to be rid of this Perplexity, but by the Expedient which was made uſe of at *Munſter*. Tho' we doubt not, but you have the Writing which was ſign'd at that time by all the Ambaſſadors, we have ſent it you, to the end that if at any time the King thinks proper we ſhould make uſe of this Medium, in order to get out of this Preliminary Difficulty, you may not be at the trouble

Trouble of seeking after it. In the mean while, we shall continue to do our utmost to surmount it, and Reason will be for us, if we are capable of Skill in Affairs of this Nature. Sir, you may observe, if you please, that in the Negotiation of *Munster*, they did not agree about the common Form of the Powers for all the Ambassadors on both sides, but having promis'd reciprocally to produce in two Months, Powers conformable to the Scheme thus reform'd by their Consent, they began to treat by Virtue of that Writing, and of the first Powers. We take the Liberty to refresh your Memory with these Particulars, only because the King has order'd us not absolutely to reject the Expedient which the Mediators propose by a common Precedent, and also because we have undertaken to give an Account of it to His Majesty, to leave them Hopes that he may agree with it.

Sir, we are moreover oblig'd to inform you of an Accident that happen'd the Day before Yesterday, and about which we have been oblig'd to carry our Complaint to the Mediators. The Matter is this; The *Sieurs Desfossiers* and *Bassin* walking on Foot, with their Footmen behind them, in one of the principal Streets of the Town, two Troopers of the Regiment of *Courland* got rid of their Comrades who were together at an Inn, and riding full speed towards the said Gentlemen, one of the Troopers wheel'd round 'em, and having made all his Efforts, but in vain, to throw them to the Ground with his Horse, he took his Carabine and cock'd it, all the while railing At them, which oblig'd them to get into the House of a Physician, to shun the Rudeness of the Trooper, who exercis'd the Butt-End of his Carabine about the Head of one of his Footmen, and kept the said *Sieurs Desfossiers* and *Bassin* block'd

block'd up in the House almost a Quarter of an Hour; now this Matter being not related to us, till after the Departure of the Companies, we thought that altho' this Disorder could be imputed to nothing but the Drunkenness of these Troopers, it was nevertheless proper to speak of it to the Mediators, in order to prevent more mischievous Accidents, which might happen from the Passage of Troops thro' this City; so that the Mediators have assur'd us, they will use their utmost Diligence, as well with the Ambassadors of *Holland*, as their Masters, and the Prince of *Orange*, to punish that Trooper, if he be discover'd in the like Insolencies again.

Sir, we thought ourselves also oblig'd to tell you, that we have already notified to the Mediators, in particular Conferences, all the Inconveniences, and tedious Lengths into which we should run, if we gave Proposals and Answers in Writing; and altho' they have assur'd us, that the Ambassadors of the *States-General* will not treat after any other manner, nevertheless we are resolv'd to answer their Proposals no other-wise than by Word of Mouth, till His Majesty gives us fresh Orders. We are, Sir, entirely at your Service, &c.

LETTER

LETTER

From the Ambassadors to the King.

Dated December 15. 1676.

S I R E,

WE had the Honour last Post to notify to Your Majesty the Answer we made to the Mediators, according to Your Orders, touching the Difficulties which the Ambassadors of *Holland* have found in our Powers. We shall now give You an Account of what the Mediators have reported to us from Monsieur *Beverning*, who told them by way of Discourse, that it was the same thing to them, whether we agreed to a common Form for the Full-Powers, such as should be drawn by the Mediators, or whether they were us'd in their peculiar Form, by changing the Substitution allow'd in that which is for me the *Mareschal d'Estrades*, into a Constitution pure and genuine, for all the three Ambassadors not to find Fault, whatever it be, with that Form. The afore-mention'd *Sieur Beverning* said he had spoke with Monsieur *Hoeug* the Ambassador of *Denmark* upon that Account, who seem'd to be satisfy'd that his Master was included under the Words of all Kings and Princes their Allies. As to the other Exceptions, so many as are in the Clause for justifying the War, and for what relates to the Affair of Prince *William of Furstemberg*, it was done rather on their Account, for the Interests of their Allies who might take Exceptions at it, than for the same, which are not essential. And there was but one Point that regards the *States*,
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and about which they could never persuade themselves to treat, viz. the Mediation of the Pope, which was a thing that was never propos'd to his Masters, and if it had, they would not have fail'd to make such Answer to it as they should have thought proper. He added, that the Full-Powers might, after the Peace was made, be printed for the Publick, and that upon this, and other Considerations, the *States* could not agree upon the Pope's Mediation, with respect to themselves; That at the Treaty of *Munster*, tho' it was carry'd on between *France* and *Spain*, the Nomination of the Nuncio was not declar'd as to what regarded the *States-General*; and that if *France* would remove this Difficulty, she might do it by giving two Full-Powers to her Ambassadors, one of which should serve for the general Mediation, and the other for the Mediation of the Pope, which had been admitted of between the *Catholic* Princes, and might be advantageous to them, in case some Difficulties should be left in the Treaty that regarded them in particular. And if Your Majesty thought it proper to satisfy them in this Point, by sending a Full-Power in the Form of the Substitution of me the Mareſchal d' Estrades, or by agreeing to such other as the Mediators should farther draw up; as he could not warrant, but all the Allies would approve of one or the other, he would engage that if they refus'd it, the *States* would begin the Business, and enter into a Conference with us without them; and that so soon as he should be inform'd of the Answer Your Majesty would make upon that Subject, he would incontinently dispatch an Express to the Count de *Kinsky* the Emperor's Ambassador, who lies ill at *Cologne*, to signify to him that whereas he is incapable to repair
to

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to *Nimeguen*, by reason of his Indisposition, the *States* could delay no longer to begin the Conferences with us.

Upon this, we made Answer to the Mediators, That by inserting the Pope's Mediation in our Powers, Your Majesty did not aim at obliging the *States* to make use of it, and that we remain'd very well satisfy'd in that Monsieur *Beverning* was convinc'd, the other Points were not essential to hinder them from entring into Business with us; and seeing what he told them was only by way of Argument, we would do the same; and after we had reply'd to the said Reasons, of which we will not trouble Your Majesty with the Repetition and which shews the little Foundation there is in the Difficulties that they make, as well about the Clause of the Mediation of the Pope, as upon the other Expressions in the Preamble, we told them that we would give an Account to Your Majesty of all that they had told us, because we were not able ourselves to make any Answer thereupon without fresh Orders.

Monsieur *Beverning* has bespoke a Compliment upon the Affair which happen'd to Monsieur *Descarrieres*; a Gentleman of the Count d' *Avaux* assuring us, that he had wrote to the Colonel who is at *Zusphen*, to endeavour to find out the Trooper who committed that Piece of Insolence, and to arrest him in order to bring him to a Tryal, tho' it is confirm'd, that he was drunk. And he has also wrote about it to the Prince of *Orange*, to intreat him to give Orders that no more Troops may pass thro' *Nimeguen* during the time that the Assembly shall be there, to prevent by that means all manner of evil Accidents. We are, with a profound Respect, Sir, &c.

L E T.

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de
Pomponne.

Dated December 15. 1676.

SIR,

YOU may ſee the Condition of our Affairs
here in our common Letter; upon which we
expect the King's Orders.

Don Pedro Ronquillo arriv'd in this City two Days
ago incognito. 'Tis ſaid he expects Count Kinsky
the Emperor's Ambaſſador in a few Days. For-
aſmuch as they will reſide near one another, and
that Count Kinsky may make him the firſt Viſit,
we have reſolv'd in that caſe to reſuſe his, in order
to maintain the Rank His Maſteſty bears above all
other Kings.

We have receiv'd the Paſports of Spain for the
Biſhop of Marſeilles, and the Marquis de Virry,
which we ſent them this Day. Sir, you will alſo
receive that of the Count de Rebenas, which we
have join'd to this Diſpatch. &c.

LETTER

LETTER

From the King to the Ambassadors.

Dated December 17. 1676.

Cousin, Messieurs Colbert and Count d' Avaux ;
 forasmuch as I have approv'd of the Expedient you propos'd to the Ambassadors of *England*, to determine the Differences upon the Full-Powers; and in regard I think it proper, you should engage to agree about those which should be concerted by the Mediators with all the Parties; I must needs think the Ambassadors of the *States-General* should have begun the Negotiation, if they were detain'd only by that Difficulty, according to the Assurance, which I saw by your Letter of the 18th of this Month, that Monsieur *Beverning* had given the Mediators. I wish he may keep his Word, and that we may be able to say, that at length the Negotiation of Peace is really open'd. Forasmuch as 'tis of Importance, the same should go forward out of hand, and that we can't too much improve the time in a Work so necessary for all *Europe*, I observe with uneasiness, that the Ambassadors of *England* are taking as tedious a Method, as that of receiving the Proposals of the Parties, and returning Answers in Writing. The Example of *Munster* should be enough to let them know the Inconveniencies of it, and the Length of that Treaty ought to be a Motive to induce them to make use of shorter Ways, now a-days, than those made use of then. Affairs are debated and discuss'd with a great deal more Ease in the Conferences; and that which requires Abundance of time to answer and

and to reply in Writing, is debated and easily determined, when 'tis treated of *viva voce*; whether you will be capacitated to speak yourselves to the Ambassadors of the *States* and their Allies, or explain yourselves reciprocally by the Interposition of the Mediators, and they report the Claims of both Sides to the Parties, the Negotiation would advance more easily, and not be liable to infinite Difficulties which arise from the Construction and Explication of Words in Writing, which do not hinder or easily arise in Conferences and Discourses. Therefore, my Intention is, that you make known to the Ambassadors of *England*, the Inconveniency which is to be fear'd from this manner of Negotiating, and which, the Experience even of *Munster* has shewn attended with Difficulties and Delays. 'Tis sufficient for them, after having drawn near the Parties in Intentions and Discourse, to amend the Articles in Writing, which should be agreed upon, and cause them to be approved by both Sides. I have wrote in the same Sense to Monsieur *Courtin*, and order'd him to speak about that Affair to the King of *England*, to the end that he may induce him to prescribe his Ambassadors another Conduct, and make them abandon that slow and languishing Method of Treating, which they seem to propole.

I have seen the Scheme you sent me of the Memorial, whereby you think to declare my Sentiments upon the Conditions of Peace, in case you should be obliged, according to the Desire of the Mediators, to give them in Writing. It contains the Terms of Instructions I gave you. Thus far I approve it: I desire only, that in the place where you speak of the *States-General*, and demonstrate, that I am willing to return them my former Amity, and to hearken to all the Proposals

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that shall be made me on their part, you would add these Words, *also concerning a Treaty of Commerce*. In regard that this is the most important Point to their State, of all that they can expect from me, I think it of great Consequence to give them a View of it, capable to render them more favourable than all the others. It may be, the Hopes of obtaining this Article, which concerns them most, will the more easily dispose them to treat separately from *Spain*; especially at a time, when they are much dissatisfy'd with the little Assistance they receive from that Crown, either to maintain the War, or to continue their Allies, by paying the Subsidy.

As for what concerns the Liberty of Prince *William*, that Affair is likewise still before me; and I have evermore the same Desire to make it succeed; insomuch that I may say, it may make one of your first Demands. But forasmuch as the doing of that would be to no purpose, while the Ministers of the Emperor, and those of *Spain*, are not yet arrived at *Nimeguen*; I think it proper for you, to forbear speaking of it, till the Assembly is entirely formed, after their Arrival. So that, provided the Ambassadors of *Holland* enter upon a Negotiation by that time, as they seem disposed thereto, you need not meddle with that Article, as yet; for they could not be in a Capacity to answer it; and, perhaps, this would be an Occasion for them to suspend the Resolutions they should discover of treating without their Allies.

I am very glad to see, that the Difference which arose between my Lord *Berkley* and the Ambassadors of *Sweden*, on account of their first Visit, has been determin'd by your Mediation: But forasmuch as I have taken Notice, that you visited that Ambassador of *England* separately, and in
that

that manner divided the Body of my Embaſſy; I think it proper, that you, hereafter, make the Viſits of Ceremony all three together, and that you receive the firſt Viſits of the Miniſters who ſhall arrive at *Nimeguen*, by you three, at the Lodgings of the firſt; otherwiſe 'tis to be fear'd, that by ſeparating yourſelves, the other Ambaſſadors will take an Opportunity to intercept you, and ſtart Difficulties, after this manner, between the Viſit which ſhall be made or receiv'd by the firſt of you, and thoſe of the others.

I hear, with Pleaſure, that the *States-General* have ſo ſoon remov'd the Difficulty which *Monſieur Beverning* ſtarted, about the Reception of the Pope's Nuncio at *Nimeguen*. Endeavour, as much as you can, to obtain for him the Liberty which he may deſire there for the Exerciſe of Religion in a great Extent; the more Publick it is, the more it will be for an Example to the Proteſtants, of Conſolation to the Catholics, and Satisfaction to me. For the reſt, I pray God to take you, my Couſin, into his holy and worthy Care, and you, *Mefſieurs Colbert*, and Count *d' Avaux*, into his Sacred Protection.

Written at *St. Germain en Laye*, the 17th day of December, 1676. Sign'd LOUIS; and underneath, ARNAULD.

LETTER

LETTER

*From Monsieur de Pomponne to
the Ambassadors.*

Dated December 17. 1676.

Gentlemen,

THE King approves of the Conduct you have observed upon account of the Passports that his Majesty is willing to grant for the extraordinary Couriers which should be dispatched from *Madrid*. It is certainly the more advantageous, in that you made the first Overture of it to the Ambassadors of *Sweden*. Forasmuch as the Dispatches which his Majesty has writ to you, fully answer, in all Points, that which he receiv'd of you the 4th and the 8th Instant; nothing remains for me, Gentlemen, but to assure you of the Sincerity and Esteem wherewith I am entirely devoted to your Service.

LETTER

*From Monsieur de Pomponne to the
Ambassadors.*

Dated December 17. 1676.

Gentlemen,

THE reason of my adding this to what I writ to you this day, is only to tell you, that the King having heard, by Letters from the Marquis de *Vitry*, that the Elector of *Brandenburg* has scrupled to

to grant him Paſports to return into *France*, and to Count *Rebenac* to go and fill up his Poſt; and alſo the Duke of *Zell* had referr'd himſelf to what the Eleſtor of *Brandenburg* ſhould do in that Point; wherefore, if they reſuſe Paſports in the Empire for his Maſteſty's Miniſters, when he granted them with ſo much eaſe for ſuch of the Empire who go into *Spain*, and paſs thro' his Kingdom, he has made a Reſolution to grant no more, and even to ſuſpend ſuch as he has already given to the Miniſters of thoſe Princes; for this Reaſon he has ſent Orders to the Frontiers, to detain the Count d'*Harrach*, Ambaſſador of the Empire, to *Madrid*, and who is returning to *Vienna*. He has his Maſteſty's Paſports, but they will be of no uſe to him, till he ſees they deal in the ſame manner with him, and that the Emperor and the Princes of the Empire grant the neceſſary Paſports for the Marquis de *Vitry*. 'Tis not above a Month ago, ſince the Count de *Troſon*, who goes Ambaſſador from *Vienna* to *Madrid*, paſſ'd thro' his Maſteſty's Territories. The Count de *Lambert* did the like a little before. Monſieur de *Lindenac*, Miniſter of *Denmark* for *Spain*, has had the ſame Liberty. 'Tis ſtrange, that the Miniſters of his Maſteſty ſhould not find the ſame Freedom in the Empire. The King deſires, Gentlemen, that you would notify at *Nimegue*, the Reſolution his Maſteſty has taken to ſuſpend the Paſſage of the Count d'*Harrach*, till he has had the ſame Liberty for his Miniſters; to the end that the Noiſe which may ſpread about thereof, may reach the Courts of the Empire, and that of *Vienna*, and oblige them to take other Meaſures. I am, Gentlemen, with all poſſible Sincerity, entirely devoted to your Service, &c.

LETTER

From the Ambassadors to Monsieur de Pomponne.

Dated December 18. 1676.

S I R,

WE receiv'd the Letter you did us the Honour to write to us of the 10th instant, and are very well pleas'd to hear that the King has approv'd of what we advanc'd to the Mediators concerning a Form of the Full-Powers. We then desired Audience of the Mediators, and told them that tho' we were fully satisfy'd as to the Difficulties the Ambassadors of *Holland* started upon our Full-Powers, and which Monsieur *Beverning* himself agreed were not essential ones, except that of the Mediation of the Pope; nevertheless, His Majesty, to discover to all *Christendom* his good Intentions and his Desire of a Peace, would permit us to engage ourselves to subscribe the Form of the Full-Powers, which shall be drawn up by the Mediators in concert with all the Parties; and on Conditions that the Ambassadors of *Holland* should on the part of their Masters, enter upon Business with us.

The Ambassadors of *Sweden* came to see us, and after having inform'd us of the Defeat of some Regiments of the Army of *Denmark* in *Seben*, which they had heard only by private Letters from *Hamburg*, they imparted to us the Advices they have had from Monsieur *Koningsmark*, of the State of Affairs on the side of *Straelson*. He tells them the Need there is to provide that Place with

with Corn, and all ſorts of Proviſions; that he had found out enough to furniſh it for a whole Year, if he had Money to pay for them; and he believ'd, if the King would grant him 10000 Crowns per Month, to commence from *January*, to receive it out of the Subſidies which are payable in the Month of *July*, he ſhould have paid beforehand by that time no more than 60000 Crowns, and that by this means he could be certain of keeping the Place. Whereupon, the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden* preſſ'd us very much to write of it to the King. We answer'd, they might be aſſur'd of His Maſteſty's Inclinations to favour the King of *Sweden* in all that he could, and that we would not fail to write to him, and make him a Representation of what Count *Koningsmark* had wrote to them; but that we ought to tell them, this was very difficult to be done, the Funds of the Aſſignations being made, and the Term ſet for Payments, according to which the Farmers of the King's Revenues took their Meaſures, and which the King Himſelf for His own particular Affairs, could not alter without confounding the regular Order of His Finances; a matter which would in Proceſs of Time introduce a Confuſion without Remedy.

Monsieur *Beverning* has ſent Monsieur *Hulſt*, Secretary of the Ambaſſador of *Holland*, to tell us, that the Prince of *Orange* had return'd him Word, he was very ſorry for the Inſolence which that Trooper had committed againſt Monsieur *Deſcarrieres*; That he had wrote to the Commander at *Zutphen*, to cauſe him to be apprehended and be brought in Chains to us, to the intent that we might order him Punishment; he alſo gave us to underſtand, that the ſaid Prince of *Orange* had given Orders that his Troops ſhould paſs no more

thro' *Nimeguen*, and we have reason to be satisfy'd with the manner after which he has dealt on this Occasion.

The Mediators having made a Report to the Ambassadors of the *States-General*, of the Consent we gave to the Expedient propos'd to recal Powers, conformable to the Scheme which should be drawn up by the Mediators in concert with all the Parties; they came afterwards to tell us, the said Ambassadors desir'd that without staying for their Allies, the Mediators would please to draw up forthwith a Scheme of the Powers, in conformity to which, we should oblige ourselves reciprocally to return new ones by a certain time, upon which, they were ready to enter instantly upon Business with us, so soon as we should have sign'd the Writing, and that if their Allies should scruple to oblige themselves to it, their Refusal should not hinder the Ambassadors of the said *States* from continuing the Negotiation with us. After we had examin'd this Proposal amongst ourselves, we thought it proper to accept of it, because if all the Allies should agree to it, we should have done nothing thereby which did not conform with the last Orders which we have receiv'd; and if they do not accept of it, the Ambassadors of the *States-General* would find themselves engag'd thereby to treat separately. We are, Sir, entirely at your Service, &c.

LETTER

LETTER

From the King to the Ambaſſadors.

Dated December 24. 1676.

C Oſin, Meſſieurs Colbert and Count d' Avaux;
your Diſpatches which I receiv'd of the 11th
and 15th inſtant, are all ſtill upon the ſame Diffi-
culties which the Ambaſſadors of the States-General
have form'd upon ſome Terms in your Full-
Powers; the firſt contains ſome Reaſons which
you alledg'd, and ſome eaſie Methods you laid
down to which they ſeem'd to adhere; by the
ſecond it appears, Monſieur Beverning had as it
were abandon'd them. All this Procedure is a
ſufficient Diſcovery, that thoſe Difficulties were
rais'd with a deſign only to gain time, in order to
ſtay for the Miniſters of Spain and the Emperor,
ſince they vaniſh'd after Don Pedro Ronquillo
was arriv'd at Nimeguen, and when Count Kinsky
was expected there in a few Days. In regard 'tis
nevertheleſs a Matter of great Concern, that thoſe
Debates may not occasion yet a farther Delay of
the opening of the Treaty, I expect to hear very
ſhortly by your Diſpatches, that the Effect will
produce the Approbation I have given to the Pro-
poſal you made the Mediators, that I was agreed
about the common Full-Powers which they ſhould
concert between all the Parties. You have al-
ready ſeen that I was not averſe to that Expe-
dient; my Diſpatches have given you to under-
ſtand ſince, that I think it well that you propos'd
it, but ſince I ſee this Day that Monſieur Be-
verning has ſtarted a new Difficulty, becauſe the
Mareſchal d' Eſtrades was ſubſtituted under the

Duke de Vitry, and since he desir'd that you might be included all three in a Full-Power, I thought it necessary, in order to forward the Negotiation, to put you in a condition to remove from yourselves all Difficulties of this Kind. 'Tis for this reason, whatever it be, whether they accepted of the Expedient to agree on a general Full-Power for all the Parties; or insist upon changing some Words in Mine; or that the *States-General* and their Protestant Allies would not have the Name of the Pope appear in that which shall be deliver'd to them; or lastly, that they desire you may be all three included in a Full-Power: I permit you to agree about it; but in order to shorten the time which shall be necessary to expect my Answer, I think it proper that tho' you stay upon that Affair, you should deliver a Writing into the Hands of the Mediators, wherein you should oblige yourselves to furnish in two Months, in good Form, and in my Name, the Full-Power which you shall agree upon. Tho' I give you this indefinite Liberty, and am willing you should pass over all those Difficulties, rather than suffer the Time of the Conferences to slip away to no Purpose, nevertheless you should keep yourselves as much as you can to the Sense and Words of the Full-Powers which I deliver'd you, and upon which Monsieur *Beverning* by your last Letter has shewn Indifference enough, in such a manner, nevertheless as I have told you before, that you would abandon them, rather than give occasion for new Artifices to put off the Negotiation. After this Power which I give you, I can see nothing that may retard the Proposals of the *States-General*, with which Monsieur *Beverning* is charg'd. I have observ'd by your Letters, that he seems willing to declare himself in a little time, that this Advice is confirm'd

confirm'd to Me more particularly from the ſide of *England*. The King of *England* has imparted a Letter to *Monſieur Courvin*, which he receiv'd from *Sir William Temple*; he obſerves to him that the ſaid *Monſieur Beverning* had confided in him to that very time; That the Difficulties about the Full-Powers were determin'd; That *Don Pedro Ronquillo* was almoſt arriv'd at *Nimeguen*; That Count *Kinsky* was at *Cologn*; and alſo that in caſe they ſhould delay much longer to repair to the Aſſembly, they would not defer to declare the Sentiments of their Maſters; That he would make reaſonable Propoſals, and in caſe the Miniſters of *Spain* or *Vienna* ſhould affect to ſtart Difficulties therein, he added with an Oath, that he would make good Orders, and put them in Execution. If he perſiſts in that Reſolution, I have reaſon to believe he will explain the Conditions of Peace in the Name of the *States-General* his Maſters. They muſt, to hope well from them, be very different from thoſe which *Monſieur Van Beuningen* communicated in ſecret to the King of *England*, otherwiſe we ought to expect but little Succeſs from them; but in regard there is Appearance, that *Monſieur Van Beuningen* ſpoke rather according to his own Sentiments, than according to the Orders which he receiv'd from the *Hague*, one would think that if the *States-General* are really diſpos'd for a Peace, they would truſt *Monſieur Beverning* with Propoſals moſt conformable to Reaſon for that End. Whatever the Propoſal be, receive it only in order to give Me an Account of it, to wait for my Orders, and to know my Intentions.

I cannot think that the *States-General* will make an End of their ſingle Excuses, which have been made You on the part of their Ambaſſadors, for the Insolence of one of their Troopers againſt

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Monsieur Descarrieres. Such an Action deserves a severe Punishment, and so much the more, because that Example might have been follow'd with too dangerous Consequences, in a Place where true Honour and the publick Safety cannot be too strongly establish'd. 'Tis the Business of the Mediators to pursue the Reparation you have desir'd, and the *States-General* will by this means preserve the Repose and Tranquillity of *Europe*.

I see a great deal of Probability, that you will have small Intercourse with Count *Kinsky*, since there is cause to doubt he will receive the Visit of *Don Pedro Ronquillo* before he admit yours, and in that case you cannot render him more. So that you have nothing to do upon that Affair, and in the manner you propos'd it, but to follow the Orders I have given you in your Instructions. As for what remains, I pray God, to take you, my Cousin, into his holy and worthy Care, and you, *Messieurs Colbert* and Count d' *Avaux*, into his sacred Protection.

Written at *St. Germain-en-Laye*, the 24th of December, 1676. Sign'd LOUIS; and underneath, ARNAULD.

LETTER

LETTER

From Monsieur de Pomponne to
the Ambassadors.

Dated December 24. 1676.

Gentlemen,

THE King's Dispatches which I have sent you, exactly answer every thing contain'd in your two last. You will thereby perceive the easie Methods which are already form'd, or may arise hereafter, about your Full-Powers. They must needs be indifferently founded, since Monsieur *Beverning* himself agrees to them, and whatsoever happens, you will have it in your Power to end it, since the Promise which you give to the Mediators will serve for the present Assurance for the Form of the Full-Powers which you shall agree to. What pass'd at *Munster* in a like Affair, may serve you instead of an Example. It is apparent, that the Pretences of the *States-General* were only to gain time, since they were more curious to include the King of *Denmark* in the general Term of their Allies, than was his Minister himself. Gentlemen, I long to see you enter once upon a Negotiation, because if God is not pleas'd to make the Event answer the Desire of all *Europe*, it would serve at least to notifie His Majesty's just and sincere Endeavours for its Repose.

I have receiv'd the Pasport from the Governor of the *Low-Countries*, which you took the Pains to send me for the Count *de Rebenac*. We now want those of the Emperor, and some Princes of the Empire; but you see, Gentlemen, by the Account I gave

gave you eight Days ago, that the Liberty which the King granted to Count *Harrach*, of passing in this Kingdom, is suspended, till the Ministers of his Majesty have obtain'd one of the like Nature for the Empire. I am, Gentlemen, with a great deal of Sincerity, entirely at your Service, &c.

L E T T E R

From the Ambassadors to the King.

Dated December 25. 1676.

S I R E,

Messieurs *de Somnitz* and *de Blaespiel*, Ambassadors of the Elector of Brandenburg, who have been here above a Month, have, at length, resolved to notify their Arrival. The Mediators with whom we conferr'd a long time ago, about the Manner of treating the Ambassadors of the Electors, have not sent to desire Audience for both Ambassadors, but only for Monsieur *de Somnitz*. However, Monsieur *Blaespiel* was with him when the Mediators came; but after having observed, for above half an Hour, that the Mediators made him no Compliment, nor spoke one Word to him, he and Monsieur *Somnitz* were willing to know the Mediators Minds; and Monsieur *Somnitz* demanded of them, whether they would not treat his Excellency Monsieur *Blaespiel* with the same Usage as they did him? Whereupon, the Mediators giving them to understand, that the Title of Excellency belonged only to the first Ambassador of the Electors, to whom they had yielded it, Monsieur *Somnitz* said, he desir'd them to give him Leave to shew them the Powers which

which the Elector of *Brandenburg* had granted them, which were the ſame for both of them, both having thereby an equal Power, and one and the ſame Title; that the Emperor had ſign'd an Aſt, whereby his Imperial Maſteſty declares, that all the Ambaſſadors of Electors ſhould be honour'd with the Title of Excellency, and ſhould have the Precedency; that there were alſo abundance of Examples in their Favour, and a Tenure in more than one Aſſembly, viz. at *Munſter*, *Nuremberg*, and *Ulm*. Upon this, the Mediators let them know, that thereby they were only to execute their Orders, and if Records could be produced to the contrary, that they might give an Account of it to the King their Maſter; but that ſo far they ſhould conform to the Cuſtom which had been eſta bliſhed. The Mediators have not ſeen that Title they alledge from the Conceſſion made by the Emperor to the Electors. We are all of Opinion, Sire, that there is none at all; and we are yet farther perſuaded, the Emperor has no Right to grant it, and that there are no Powers in the World which can, by their own Authority, give Prerogatives to Princes, which are only due to Kings.

When the Audience of the Mediators was over, we ſent to deſire ours. *Monſieur Somnitz* answer'd our Domeſticks, that they could not grant us one preſently, till we had explain'd ourſelves, after what manner we deſign'd to treat *Monſieur Blaeſpiel*; but without ſtaying for our Answer, *Monſieur Somnitz* ſent the next Minute to me the *Mareſchal d' Eſtrades*, to tell me, that if I was willing to go and viſit *Monſieur Somnitz*, he would receive me; and that he would alſo come and ſee me by myſelf, ſeparately, and that otherwiſe he could not receive my Viſit. Forasmuch as it happen'd,
that

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that we were all three together when that Gentleman came, we told him, that the Ambassadors of *Brandenburg* ought not to take it ill, that, upon this Occasion, we had follow'd the Example of the time past; that 'twas an establish'd Custom, the first Ambassador alone should have the Precedency; and that this Tenure was a Rule, from which we could not depart; that two of us had seen it practis'd after this manner, at *Munster* and *Frankfort*; that Count *Oxenstiern*, who is here, was Ambassador at *Nuremberg*, and had, in that Place, a hundred Opportunities to see the Ambassadors of *Brandenburg*; that he always intercepted the first Ambassador of *France*, because he would pay the first Visit only to the first of those of *Brandenburg*; and Monsieur *Somnitz* should not have thought of it, when he did it. This is, Sire, the Posture in which Things stand, at present, with respect to us.

The Ambassadors of *Sweden*, to whom they made the same Difficulty, were not, for that very Reason, with the Electors. The Ambassador of *Denmark* went to see him. We know not yet what Use we shall make of it; but we are sensible, notwithstanding, that neither he, nor any other Ambassador, can be a Rule for us.

Sire, we have clear'd all those Difficulties, and many others, which might arise, by going all three in a Body to those first Visits; and we have taken Care, not to be deficient therein, after we receiv'd Orders from your Majesty, by the Letter wherewith you honour'd us of the 17th instant: But there remains some Scruple, about receiving the first Visit all three together; because the Ambassadors of *England*, who came in a Body to make this first Visit, receiv'd it nevertheless all three separately: So that we shall pay your Majesty

jeſty leſs Honour, than we ſhall give to the King of *Great-Britain*. Beſides, 'tis really to be fear'd, that we may be intercepte'd by going ſeparately; but as to what relates to the returning of the Viſits, it was voluntary, and we were all three together; and at the ſame time, there will be no Colour for intercepting our Viſits, to pay them to any Body. We ſee alſo, that at *Munſter*, the Deputies of the *Hanſe-Towns*, going to viſit *Monſieur d'Avaux*, ſound *Monſieur de Servien* there, who receiv'd them, and continued in the Audience, from whence they went to the Ambaſſadors of *Spain*, pretending they had paid your Maſteſty the due Honour. The Ambaſſadors of your Maſteſty maintain, on the contrary, that being both equally Ambaſſadors, they ow'd each a Viſit, which was approv'd of by your Maſteſty. We alſo think there is more Honour in this manner; beſides that, here are only the Ambaſſadors of *Holland*, and thoſe of *Brandenburg*, who receiv'd the firſt Viſit together; perhaps, becauſe they reſide in the ſame Houſe: All the others receiv'd it ſeparately, and we ſhould be the only Perſons that acted as the Ambaſſadors of *Holland* and the Electors. Sire, We thought ourſelves oblig'd to inform your Maſteſty of all theſe Circumſtances, to the end that you might give us your Orders, and that afterwards we might put them in Execution, without Fear,

We ſhall make uſe of all the Arguments your Maſteſty ſhall furniſh us with, to hinder, if we are able, the making Propoſals in Writing. This was our Opinion, and that of all thoſe who would advance Buſineſs; and we ſhall be overjoy'd to have, ſhortly, an Opportunity to treat about that Queſtion: But we find in all the Proceedings of the Mediators, a Slowneſs, which, in Spite of us, and
the

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the Ambassadors of *Holland*, removes us farther off from one another. We have heard by Monsieur *Olivenkrants*, that the Ambassadors of the *States* complain very much, because four Days are now elapsed, and the Mediators have not returned them an Answer about the Form; that they have not spoke to us about that of the Ambassadors of *Holland*; and that they perceive, the Mediators endeavour to draw back, instead of advancing forwards. He is of that Opinion; and amidst the good Intentions which he has for Peace, he, nevertheless, for some hidden Apprehension, continues as reserved as he has been hitherto. We are, with a profound Respect, Sire, &c.

L E T T E R

From the Ambassadors to Monsieur de Pomponne.

Dated December 25. 1676.

S I R,

TH^O' we have given the King an exact Account of the Affair of the Ambassadors of the Elektor of *Brandenburg*; nevertheless, we think ourselves obliged, here, to add some Circumstances, to remark to you the Unfairness of their Proceedings. Those Ambassadors notified their Arrival, on *Wednesday*-Evening, to the Mediators only; and on *Thursday*-Morning, they sent several Gentlemen to all of us, to give Occasion to the Ambassador of *Denmark*, who is a near Neighbour, to send first to desire his Audience, as he did. The Ambassadors of *Sweden* had also their Audience appointed afterwards; so that when we sent thither,

thither, the firſt Answer thoſe Gentlemen made, was, that they had ſpent the whole Day from Three of the Clock; and forasmuch as thoſe Gentlemen told us, we might go thither at Two; Answer was made, That the Rule was, that the firſt who deſir'd Audience, ſhould have it firſt; ſo that another could not have it an Hour before, altho' it were vacant. But at the ſame time, they deſir'd us to explain ourſelves, as to the Treatment of *Monſieur de Blacpiel*, and they had the Civility to furniſh us with a fair and plausible Expedient, to extricate us out of the Difficulty which we lay under. If the like ſhould happen to us, as we have reaſon to expect, by the Correſpondence there is among our Enemies; we intreat you, Sir, to do us the Honour, to ſend us Word, after what manner his Maſteſty thinks fit that we ſhould free ourſelves from the ſame. We have already reſolved among ourſelves, that if the Neighbourhood of Houſes, or the Intelligence there is between thoſe Gentlemen, ſhould cauſe an Ambaſſador to ſend to deſire an Audience before us, we ſhould not forbear demanding it, becauſe otherwiſe we ſhould yield up our Right of being viſited firſt, tho' we perform'd that Duty laſt; and otherwiſe, we ſhould give up the Cauſe to the firſt, who pretend an entire Equality; and the returning of Viſits ought preciſely to follow the Order, which was obſerved in receiving them. But there are three Méthods to put the Deſign we have formed in Execution. The firſt is, by deſiring an Audience, to notify, that altho' the others have already demanded it, and made their Viſits before us; yet we doubt not, but in the return of them, due Preference will be given to the King. There is an Inconveniency in making this Declaration; which is, that we ſeem

seem to doubt of our Right, and to refer it to Arbitration: And there is also this Difficulty in not making it; that we should go to see an Ambassador, from whom, perhaps, we should not receive a Visit; since we should refuse them, if he went to see any one before us. However, if we are ordered to take this last Expedient, we would willingly know, how we should demean ourselves afterwards; whether we should content ourselves with telling the Gentleman, who comes to desire Audience of us, that being inform'd that his Master is gone to visit others, we could no longer receive him; or else (because it always happens, that we send, at the same time, to demand all the Audiences, altho' at different Hours, and when the Gentleman tells us his Master is not to be found) to know whether, in that Case, we may tell him, we are willing to grant an Audience; because we are persuaded, that the first Visit will be made to us, without which we don't design to receive any: Or, lastly, whether we should affront them, as they deserve, by assigning them an Audience, (since we may be ignorant, that they went to the others first) and when they come to us, let them go down, and then send them, away or else send them back at the very Gate. Perhaps, Sir, you may think this Explication somewhat tedious; but forasmuch as we are desirous exactly to follow the King's Intentions, we shall be very glad to be punctually inform'd thereof.

We also believe, we have great need of clear Instruction, about the Affair of the Powers; for we see Batteries on all Sides rais'd against us. They are willing to lay the Blame of all *Chriftendom* upon us, for delaying the Conferences of Peace; and the Censure of the Catholics, for taking

taking the Pope's Mediation out of the Full Powers. If his Majesty is willing that we should observe what he order'd us, to promise to recal a Power like to that on which all the Parties should be agreed, we should, by that means, be wide of the Matter: For the Emperor and Spain being agreed about a Clause, they could not reproach us, for having broke the Way; besides, we have so many Parties in Opposition, that if we were willing to agree with them all, it would be an Affair that could not be ended. We are inform'd, the Ambassadors of *Holland* told the Mediators, that they did not believe we should consent to the taking away of the Pope's Mediation, and quitting that of *England*; and that they themselves were Opinion, that no Mention should be made of either. Without doubt, this Discourse did not please the Mediators, but it was extremely agreeable to us; for after we declared, that we would not begin first to raise that Difficulty, we were not sorry that others had done it; and we believe, that if they would enter speedily upon Business, they could make use of no more than two Expedients; the one, either to promise, as we said before, a Power according to the Form which should be drawn, and in case the Ambassadors of the *States* did not approve of that Proposal, to make no Mention of any Mediation, as was practis'd at *Munster*; in which case, it would be better to reform the Powers given, than to make new ones; and the rather, because that propos'd by the Mediators, is full of Faults. We will debate that with the Ambassadors of *Sweden*, and will send you our Remarks by the first Post.

Sir, according to your Letter of the 17th, we have made known to the Mediators, the Resolution

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tion the King has taken, to grant no more Passports to the Ministers of his Enemies, to suspend even those he has given, and the Orders which he has sent in Consequence thereof, to the Frontiers, to detain the Count *d'Harrach*. We gave them to understand the Cause of this Resolution, and how dishonourable it was, that Passports should be denied the King's Ministers in the Empire, at a time when his Majesty granted them with so much ease to all the Ministers, who were to pass thro' his Kingdom. Sir, We have taken Notice of the Examples thereof, which are cited in your Letter; and we believe the Mediators will insist strongly on that Affair, to the Ambassadors of *Holland*, altho' we only told it them by way of Conversation, and gave them to understand, that our Design in speaking to them of it, was only to the end they might be informed, when they hear that the Passage of the Count *d'Harrach* is put off, of the Motives that obliged the King to do it. We are, Sir, entirely at your Service.

LETTER

LETTER

From the Ambassadors to the King.

Dated December 29. 1676.

S I R E,

THE Mediators having desir'd an Audience of us, made a Report to us, That they had inform'd the Ambassadors of the *States-General*, of our Sentiments, as to the Form of the Powers, and the Writing which they the Mediators shew'd them: That first in the Writing, the Term *Objections reciprocally made against the Form of the said Powers*, ought to be amended; since they were made on both sides, against the said Terms and the Expression of the Powers, and not against the Form: Secondly, that they demanded a Clause might be added to that Writing, which we also desir'd, to render valid all that should be treated of till there were new Full-Powers: In the third Place, that all the Blanks which were left in that Scheme, should be forthwith fill'd up; and lastly, that we should oblige ourselves to bring back Powers separate for each of their Allies, who requir'd them: And Sir *William Temple* also enter'd upon a particular Enumeration of those who might demand them, among whom he nam'd the Duke of *Lorrain*. We return'd them for Answer, after having given to their continu'd Care all the Commendations it deserves, or rather what we thought proper, in order to incite them to labour in earnest to promote the Peace; That if the Ambassadors of the *States-General* were as desirous to enter upon Business, as they had made a shew of, it would be easie enough to determine with them, the three
first

first Objections they made by the Mouth of the Mediators; but that their last Demand gives us no room to doubt, that they adhere entirely to the Sentiments of most Part of their Allies, who ground their Hopes upon the Continuation of the War, and put off the Negotiations of Peace as far as it lies in their Power: That they the Mediators themselves were very sensible, that notwithstanding the Care Your Majesty had taken to cause such Terms to be left out, in the Powers you dispatch'd to us, as might occasion any Difficulty to the Ambassadors of the *States-General*, yet they had not ceas'd to raise some, in order to elude the putting in Practice the Resolution their Masters had taken to treat with us from the first of last *November*: That they the Mediators might judge from thence, that since those of the whole Party engag'd against *France*, who express'd the most Inclination for Peace, had hinder'd it so much, in the Communication of the Powers, that in case they were multiply'd, and particular ones given to each of the Parties, whose whole Procedure denotes so earnest a Desire to continue the War; how many Difficulties and endless Delays might be found upon each Word and Expression. That therefore we leave it to their Prudence to conclude, that the only means which can be made use of in order to enter upon Business in good Earnest, is, that which we offer'd, to oblige ourselves forthwith to bring back Powers conformable to that which they should agree upon with all the Parties. We also gave them to understand, that we could not oblige ourselves to bring back a Power, wherein no mention should be made of the Mediation of the Pope, till the Arrival of the Ambassadors of the Emperor, the King of *Spain*, and the other *Catholic* Princes, as well as His Holiness's.

Holiness's Nupcio. We might in concert with the latter, take such measures as should be necessary to put an end to that Difficulty; and by reforming, on both sides, the Terms that give Uneasiness, in each of the Powers, which should be communicated, oblige ourselves reciprocally to bring back new ones, after the manner as they were reform'd, as it was practis'd at *Munster*: That altho' they the Mediators told us, That what had pass'd there, ought not to be a Rule in this Assembly, yet we believ'd their Opinion was not to reject that Example, but so far as it might prolong the Negotiation; such as Proposals, Answers, Replies and Rejoinders in Writing, and other tedious Methods, which so long retarded the Prosperity of *Germany*; but not in those Particulars that might advance Business, as by the Expedient made use of for the Full-Powers, in which it is much more easie to reform what could not be there admitted, than to draw up a Form which may be agreeable to all the Parties: That tho' we have all the reason in the World, to admire their Skill in our Language, and their Care and Exactness in leaving out of their Scheme, all that might give Rise to the Difficulties form'd by the Ambassadors of the *States-General*; nevertheless, forasmuch as it is impossible to know so well, the proper Signification, and the Energy of the Words of a Foreign Language, nor enter so perfectly into the manner of speaking suitably to the Dignity of every Prince, as their respective Ministers, who apply themselves wholly thereto; many things escap'd in the Phrase, and even in the Substance, which might occasion Difficulties, much more reasonable than those that at present retarded the Negotiation: To conclude, we told them, that we still persist'd in the

first Offer we made them, to bring back new Powers after the manner as should be concerted with all the Parties; and also that not to quit the Engagement under which our Integrity and the Desire of forwarding the Peace had laid us, towards the Ambassadors of the *States-General*, when they should give us reason to expect it reciprocally on their part, we would oblige ourselves towards them alone, to bring back a Power from Your Majesty in the same Terms, as that which we produc'd, by amending in concert with them, what made them uneasy; provided there was no Mention made therein of any of the Allies, with regard to whom our first Power should suffice, till the Ambassadors and Ministers of the Emperor, of *Spain*, and other *German* Princes were arriv'd here; That their Powers had been communicated to us, and that the Mediators after that reciprocal Delivery, had themselves judg'd it proper to come from thence to amend the Powers, and to follow the same Expedient which was made use of at *Munster*: That if the Ambassadors of the *States-General* would not accept of one or other of our Offers, we should declare ourselves from henceforth disengag'd from the Promises we made to them, the said Mediators, and that we would not enter into any Obligation which was not reciprocal on both sides. We very well perceive, Sire, that we cannot determine those Difficulties, but by agreeing forthwith to the Form of the Powers with the *States-General*, and that they will not content themselves with the Writing we offer'd to sign, continuing a Promise to bring back new ones, when they shall be concerted or reform'd with all the Parties: We also certainly know, that the said Ambassadors are not agreed with

Don Pedro Ronquillo, about the manner of Proceeding in that Negotiation; the latter claiming that the Interests of all the Allies should be included in one and the same Writing; and the former being dispos'd to follow the Order which they say they have receiv'd from their Masters, to act separately as to what relates to them, and nevertheless to pursue the Satisfaction of their Allies, as far as they are concern'd. That Difference of Sentiments upon this Point, raises another likewise on Account of the Powers; and the same was confirm'd to us Yesterday by my Lord *Berkley*, who discoursing with one of us, about the Difficulties which hinder'd us, ingenuously acknowledg'd that he could not conceive for what reason the Ambassadors of the *States-General* demanded separate Powers; since *Don Pedro Ronquillo* was not of the same Opinion, and had declar'd he would be contented with a general Power for all those who are in War against *France*. This sufficiently shews, he judges that by that means we go farther from all Conferences with the Ambassadors of the *States-General*, whose Masters being wearied out with a War so destructive to them, and persuaded by the affected Delays of the Emperor's Ambassador, who is not yet set out from *Cologne*; that His Imperial Majesty and some other Princes of the Empire, who are not willing to put an end to the War so speedily, might well wish to determine all those Preliminary-Difficulties by separate Powers, and enter seriously into a Negotiation with us: For this Reason, we agreed with the Ambassadors of *Sweden*, about an Expedient, the Success of which we impatiently expect, to be able to inform Monsieur *Pomponne* thereof, before the Departure of the Post, and

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whether Your Majesty agrees to the dividing of the Powers into three, as we propos'd it; or if you think there may be other ways to get out of this Difficulty, and it appears to you as well as to us, that it conduces to your Service, that we should enter forthwith upon Business with the Ambassadors of the *States*, we hope you will be pleas'd to notifie to us, with as much speed as possible, all the Conditions in which we may acquiesce, or empower us to take out of all those which shall be propos'd, what we shall judge most conducive to your Service, or less prejudicial thereto.

POST-

POSTSCRIPT.

WE could not know the Answer of the Ambaſſadors of the *States-General*, before the Departure of this Poſt: However, ſince the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden* perceive with a great deal more Regret, than any other Miniſters, that the Negotiation is retarded by thoſe Difficulties; they themſelves alſo ſeek for all poſſible means to determine them, and for that Purpoſe they have drawn up a Model of Power, a Copy of which we ſend to Your Maſteſty, and they have intreated us to give them Liberty (in caſe we have nothing to object againſt it) to diſpoſe the Ambaſſadors of the *States-General* to deliver it as it were from their own Hands to the Mediators, to induce us to ratifie it. Altho' we have obſerv'd nothing therein which can prejudice Your Maſteſty's Honour, and tho' there be no expreſs Mention made of the Pope; it is nevertheleſs compriz'd under the general Term of *Mediators* reſpectively receiv'd and agreed. We thought ourſelves oblig'd not to enter upon this Accommodation, without having firſt receiv'd Your Maſteſty's Orders; and the rather, becauſe it would engage us to a certain Form excluſive of the Ambaſſadors of the Emperor and other Princes, who have not yet appear'd in the Aſſembly: And ſince in this Form, Mention is made only of the *States-General* and their Allies in general, every Ambaſſador of the ſaid Allies arriving here, would alſo lay claim to a like Form and ſeparate, in order to treat with him; which would rather

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multiply the Difficulties *ad infinitum*, than put an end to them. But if Your Majesty agrees to the Preamble of this Full-Power, with the Clause which tacitly comprehends the Mediation of the Pope, we believe the Ambassadors of the *States-General* would not be so unreasonable as to refuse, that the Decree should remain in the same Terms, as it is express'd in the Power which we have communicated; since they themselves made no Objection thereto: Thus only one new Power would be dispatch'd for all the Parties except *Denmark*, for which Your Majesty has consented to grant a separate one. We are, with a profound Respect, Sir, &c.

LETTER

LETTER

From the Ambassadors to Monsieur
de Pomponne.

Dated December 29. 1676.

SIR,

YOU will perceive, by our Dispatches to the King, that all the Difficulties form'd by the Ambassadors, touching our Full Powers, are so far from being decided by our Offers, that they increase every Day; and that we stand in need of speedy and ample Instructions, to get out of this Perplexity, which will daily augment, by the Arrival of the Allies. In a Conference we held yesterday with the Ambassadors of Sweden, (which is regulated between us twice a Week) they first informed us of all the Defaults they observ'd in the Full-Power of Monsieur Hoeg, Ambassador of Denmark, which we will send to you so soon as they shall be given us in Writing. And they told us afterwards, that they were of Opinion, with us, that the Form of the Powers could not be agreed with, after the manner in which it was drawn up by the Mediators; the same appearing to them defective, from the beginning to the end. And after we had debated together, all the Arguments which can be brought, either to maintain or reject the Proposals made by the Ambassadors of the States-General, to dispatch as many separate Powers, as there should be Parties who desire them; they told us, that in regard they certainly knew, that Don Pedro Ronquillo, and the

said Ambassador of the *States*, were of a different Opinion about the Manner of proceeding in that Assembly; the first urging, that all the Claims of the Allies might be included in one Writing, and that no separate Proposals may be made; the others, on the contrary, being desirous to follow the Orders which they say they have from their Masters to act separately, nevertheless without abandoning the Interest of their Allies; they thought, for this Reason, 'twas our common Interest, to agree forthwith with the Ambassadors of the *States-General*, about a Form of the Power, and to promise to dispatch the like, even to all the Allies, who shall desire them; since by that Means, we shall confirm them farther in the Resolution they have taken to treat separately. But after we had shew'd them, on our Part, the uncertainty of the Effect of this Compliance, and moreover, the Inconveniences set down in our Dispatches from his Majesty; we, at length, agreed, that forasmuch as we had spent, on our part, all the easy Methods which his Majesty promis'd to lay down, and which he thought more than sufficient to satisfy all reasonable Persons, they should, before they proposed new Expedients to him, know whether the Ambassadors of the *States-General* would content themselves therewith: And for that purpose, we have concerted with the said Ambassadors of *Sweden*, the Form of the Power hereto subjoined; and we agreed, that either directly, (if they should have Occasion for them) or by the Way of their Friends, they should communicate it to Messieurs *Beverning* and *Haeren*; and gave them to understand, that if they found no Fault with it, they would endeavour to dispose us to desire the like for his Majesty, wherein Mention should only

only be made of the *States-General*, and their Allies; and to induce us alſo to conſent, that in caſe the Ambaſſadors of the Emperor, and thoſe of *Spain*, ſhould communicate their Powers to us, not contenting themſelves with that which we have put into the Hands of the Mediators, his Maſteſty would diſpatch two others conformable to the ſaid Draught; the one, to treat with thoſe of *Spain*, and her Allies, as well upon Condition that all the other Princes who are in the War, and alſo the King of *Denmark*, for whom the ſaid Ambaſſadors of *Sweden* were willing no ſeparate Power ſhould be diſpatched, would content themſelves to be comprized under the Name of the Allies of thoſe three Powers; as that the Ambaſſadors of the Emperor, and the King of *Spain*, ſhould likewiſe oblige themſelves reciprocally, to bring back the like Powers, and by the ſame time as we. This, Sir, is the preſent Poſture of the whole Affair; and if the ſaid Ambaſſadors of *Sweden* ſpeak to thoſe of the *States-General*, before the Departure of the Poſt, we will inform you ſuccinctly thereof; if not, it will be by the firſt Poſt. However, we have ſent you their Scheme in *Latin*, and ours in *French*. You may add to it, or diminifh therefrom, as you ſhall think fit; and we will endeavour to put in Practice what his Maſteſty ſhall order us, as to that Affair, and all other things. We are, moreover, obliged to tell you, that the Mediators have given the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden* to underſtand, that they would conſent, that no Mention be made in the Powers, concerning the Mediation of the King of *Great-Britain*; but we have rejected this Overture, to prevent his *Britanniſh* Maſteſty's Diſpleaſure againſt *France*; and we ſhall expect your Orders thereupon. We

F. 5,

have

have not sent you our Remarks upon the Draught of the Mediators, there being not one Line in it, which is not full of Faults, and which has not need to be reformed in the Manner you offer'd to pass it, to oblige us to bring back new Powers.

Since the writing of the above-mention'd, Monsieur *Olivenkranz* came to us, to make a Report of the Conference he had with Monsieur *Beverning*; the Substance whereof is, that the said *Sieur Beverning* disapproves no less than we, of the Form drawn up by the Mediators; that he believes, in order to put an end to the principal Difficulty of the Powers, no Mention should be made of any Mediation at all; that he has spoke after this manner to the Mediators, who presently wrote about it to the King their Master; and that there was Reason to hope, his *Britannick* Majesty would, in order to forward the Peace, give his Ambassadors themselves in Charge, to desire that no Mention may be made of his Mediation. And in that Case, forasmuch as we would not be the first, no more than the Ambassadors of the Emperor and *Spain*, in engaging to bring back a Power, wherein the due Honour would not be given, either to the Mediation of the Pope, or that of the King of *England*; the Mediators would divide themselves to obtain a Consent of us all, at the same time, to the Form of the Power thus amended. And if his *Britannick* Majesty should not agree to that Expedient, in that Case, Monsieur *Beverning* would find no Difficulty in the Form of the Power, which the said *Sieur Olivenkranz* communicated to him; but that he could not give a full Consent thereto, till he had first imparted the same to Don *Pedro Donquillo*, and the latter

to Count *Kinsky*, Ambaſſador of the Emperor, who would not be here in leſs than four or five Days: So that he could not give any poſitive Answer, till eight or ten Days were expired; by which time, he would have that of his *Britannick* Ma-jeſty. The ſaid *Sieur Beverning* likewise aſſerted, that his Ma-jeſty could not exempt himſelf from diſpatching, at leaſt, five Powers, viz. one to treat with the Emperor, the ſecond with *Spain* and her Allies, the third with the *States-General* and their Allies, the fourth with the King of *Denmark*, and the fifth with the Elector of *Brandenburg*. But foraſmuch as we gave the ſaid *Sieur Olivenkrantz* to underſtand, that one could not be produced, to treat with the Elector of *Brandenburg*, without giving Occaſion to all the other Princes of *Germany*, who are engaged in War, to claim the ſame thing alſo; he ſaid to us, that we had not well repreſented that Conſequence to the ſaid *Monſieur Beverning*; and that he hop'd, ſo ſoon as he ſhould certify him thereof, he would deſiſt from that Demand for the Elector of *Brandenburg*, and content himſelf with four other Powers. The ſaid *Monſieur Beverning* likewise told us, he had, at preſent, a Permiſſion to ſee us, and that from henceforth he would hold frequent Conferences with us. However, Sir, you plainly ſee, that with reſpect to the Powers, he will do nothing, for the future, but in concert with the Allies, who are already here.

The Secretary of the Ambaſſador of *Holland*, has declared, on the part of his Maſters, to me the *Maraſchal d'Eſtrades*, that they ſhould be very glad, that the Difference between us and the Ambaſſadors of the Elector of *Brandenburg* could be adjusted, and that they might be indu-

ced to take the Audiencies we gave them, for a formal Visit, and to return it to us in the Time and Manner as we shall desire. Sir, we have reserv'd the Answer for our next Dispatches, and we believe, that in twelve or fifteen Days we may receive their Visit, after the Manner they propos'd it, by consenting only to the first Article, without prejudicing the King's Honour in any wise; and we may well receive that Visit, without staying for his Majesty's Orders, if we hear that Don *Pedro Ronquillo* is disposed to notify his, by reason of Consequences which you may judge of.

The Prince of *Orange* has sent hither the Trooper, who, we inform'd you, committed certain Outrages against Monsieur *Descarrieres*, and he has sent him to us with his Hands bound, to suffer such Punishment as we shall judge proper. We have signify'd to the Ambassadors of *Holland*, our being very well satisfy'd with those Marks of Respect of the said Prince, and the *States-General*, for his Majesty, as well as those of Religion, with which he has express'd his Willingness to maintain the Law of Nations. We are most sincerely, Sir, entirely at your Service.

LETTER

L E T T E R

From the King to the Ambaſſadors.

Dated December 31. 1676.

Couſin, Meſſieurs Colbert, and Count d'Avaux;
I receiv'd your Letters of the 18th and 22d
iſtant, together with the laſt Copy of the Ge-
neral Full Power, which was drawn by the Me-
diators, and the Scheme of the Writing that
they had drawn from the ſame, whereby the
Miniſters who are at *Nimeguen*, were to oblige
themſelves to furniſh, by a certain time, the ſaid
Full Powers, ſign'd by their Maſters. I approve
of the Form of the Writing, and alſo that of the
Full Power, which could not be more concise, or
more plain.

I have obſerved the Difficulty you made, to
engage yourſelves, with regard to the *States-Ge-
neral*, and their Allies, to cloſe with what was
propoſed by the Mediators, when the *States-Ge-
neral* would oblige themſelves for their own part
only, and could not engage for their Allies,
whoſe Miniſters made ſo affected a Delay to re-
pair to *Nimeguen*. But in regard that I am very
deſirous to remove the Obſtructions which may
retard the Negotiation, and which gave Occa-
ſion to the Ambaſſadors of the *States-General*, not
to enter upon a Treaty, tho' they declared, they
had a Power to do it; I am willing, in order to
put a Stop to all theſe Difficulties, that you ſhould
put into the Hands of the Mediators, the Wri-
ting

ting they propos'd, whereby you oblige yourselves to provide the Full Powers, in the Forms which you should agree to, and in Form of which they drew the Scheme. Thus, there will be no more Pretence left, for the Ambassadors of the *States* to refuse entring upon a Negotiation with us; at least, they would shew too plainly, that there was little Sincerity in the Desire which they have affected to make appear to this very Day.

In order likewise to give them no Occasion to insist upon so ill-grounded a Difficulty, as that which they have formed concerning the Mediation of the Pope; I think it expedient you should instantly oblige yourselves to procure a Full Power, such as was proposed by the Ambassadors of *England*, and wherein only the King their Master is nominated. It will be sufficient, after this manner, for all the Princes and Protestant States, who refuse the Mediation of his Holiness; But when it shall be requisite to communicate it to the Ambassadors of the Emperor, and of *Spain*, and other Catholick Princes, I will send you a second, express'd in the same Terms, excepting certain Words which shall be added in the Preamble, after the Manner which I shew you in a separate Paper.

Altho' it appears, that the Pope is nominated after the King of *England*; neither his Holiness, nor the Catholick Princes will have reason to complain thereof; since in relating Matters of Fact as they happen'd, in the Acceptation of Mediations, the Order of Time is only observed, and not that of Dignity; and that if even the Pope's Nuncio and the Ambassador of *Venice* arrive after the Assembly is quite formed, and the Powers in which the King of *England* is named, were

were communicated to all the Parties; forasmuch as it would be to no purpose, to authorize my Ambassadors by new ones, it may be sufficient, that the Catholick Princes acknowledge the Pope's Mediation, and that that of *Venice* extend itself to all the rest. Nevertheless, in case the Nuncio insist upon that Formality, the Expedient I have just now mention'd to you may be then made use of, and the same Full Powers exchange'd with the Catholick Princes, in which his Holiness's Name is inserted.

I believe, by this and my former Dispatches, I have remov'd the Difficulties that have been already made, and those which may be rais'd for the future, upon the Full Powers, in such a manner, as that if they alone stop'd the Negotiation of the *States-General*, I shall speedily hear, that you are enter'd upon Business with their Ambassadors.

I have receiv'd what was communicated to you, by the Ambassadors of *Sweden*, touching the Scarcity of Provisions in the Places that remain under the *Swedes* Jurisdiction in *Pomerania*, and the Proposal which Count *Koningmark* made, to furnish them with a sufficient Supply, if 10000, Crowns a Month were remitted to him during the six first Months of the next Year, payable upon the Terms of the Subsidies of the Month of *July*. All that I can contribute to an Affair so important for *Sweden*, is to assure Monsieur *Adelskron*, who has the Care here, of receiving the Subsidies of that Crown, that the Remittance, whether he do it by himself, or cause it to be done by another, shall be punctually paid him, when I shall discharge the Term of the Subsidy which shall be due. For the rest, I pray God to take you, my Cousin, into his holy and worthy Care,
and

and you, Messieurs Colbers and Count d'Avaux, into his sacred Protection.

Written at St. Germain en Laye; the 31st Day of December, 1676. Sign'd LOUIS, and underneath ARNAULD.

LETTER

From Monsieur de Pomponne to the Ambassadors.

Dated December 31. 1676.

Gentlemen,

THE Dispatches of his Majesty, so exactly answer yours of the 18th, and 22d instant, that I have nothing particular to add thereto. 'Tis full of so many facile Methods, to remove all the Obstacles rais'd upon the Full Powers, that the States General cannot avoid either entering forthwith upon a Negotiation, or making it appear, that their Artifices were premeditated, on purpose to delay it.

The Satisfaction you have receiv'd from the Ambassadors of Holland, for the Insolence of the Trooper who assaulted Monsieur Descarrieres, and the Punishment which the Prince of Orange has assured he would inflict upon him, may content you at the same time, and cause you to take Precautions for the future, for preventing the like Inconveniencies.

I say

of the Mareſc. d'Eſtrades, &c. 137

I ſay nothing to you, in particular, about the Powers of *Denmark*, ſince the Miniſter of that Crown promiſes to ſend ſuch as you ſhall deſire. Do me always the Juſtice, Gentlemen, to believe, that I am, with all the Sincerity that can be, entirely devoted to your Service.

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to the King.

Dated *January* 1. 1677.

SIRE,

YEſterday we receiv'd the Diſpatch, where-
with it pleas'd your Majeſty to honour us, of
the 24th of *December*; and we may ſay, that the
late facile Methods you have laid down, for the
Advancement of a Peace, cannot come more
opportunely, than with the News we have re-
ceiv'd of the Victory, gain'd by the King of
Sweden over the King of *Denmark*; which affords
us ſo much the more Occaſion to ſhew to the
Mediators, that all the prosperous Succeſſes,
with which it has pleas'd God to bleſs your Ma-
jeſty's Arms, or thoſe of your Allies, continually
augment your Deſire of giving Peace to all *Europe*.
We have already concerted with the Ambaſſa-
dors of *Sweden*, the Means of terminating all the
Difficulties of the Full Powers, according to the
Order your Majeſty gave us; and we believe,
we ought rather to defer it to the next Poſt,
the informing you what we have done to get
clear of this firſt Perplexity, than to fatigue
you

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you farther in this, with a tedious Enumera-
tion the Artifices which they continue to use,
to wait for the Coming of Count *Kinsky*,
who is not yet arrived, and may easily find
new Pretences of Procrastination, if he thinks
them capable of impeding the Negotiation. You
cannot but be Happy, if it please God to hear
the Prayers made by all *France*, that he would
bless your Majesty with all manner of prospe-
rous Successes, during this Year, and for as ma-
ny others as you shall desire, with all possible
Zeal and Respect. *Sire, &c.*

Dated January 1. 1677.

SIRE,

Yesterday we received the Disposition, which
which is placed your Majesty to honour us, of
the said of December; and we must say, that the
said Disposition you have laid down for the
the most of a Peace, seems to be
opportune, than with the News we have re-
ceived of the Victory gained by the King of
Sweden over the King of Denmark; which affords
us so much the more Occasion to show to the
Mediators, that all the prosperous Successes,
with which it has pleased God to bless your Ma-
jesty's Arms, or those of your Allies, continually
augment your Desire of giving Peace to all Europe.
We have already concerted with the Ambassa-
dors of Sweden, the Means of terminating all the
of the said Powers, according to the
LETTER
Order your Majesty have us; and we believe,
we ought rather to defer it to the next Post,
the informing you what we have done to get
clear of this first Impediment, than to fatigue

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de
Pomponne.

Dated January 1. 1677.

SIR,

WE hope we may be able to inform you by
next Poſt, either that we have entirely
remov'd thoſe Difficulties which were rais'd a-
bout our Full-Powers, or that the Ambaſſadors
of the *States-General* and their Allies, will be
oblig'd to own that they are willing to do no-
thing till the Arrival of Count *Kinsky*. Sir *Lie-
nel Jenkins* has already prepar'd us for this
wretched Diſappointment, who will not leave
the Enemies of *France* any means, of laying the
Blame of Retarding the Peace upon us; by
propoſing a Model of Power to us, in all re-
ſpects like that which you diſpatch'd to us, ex-
cepting that we have left out all the Terms,
which the Ambaſſadors of the *States-General* re-
jeſted: If it be not agreed to, we ſhall conſent
to that, a Copy of which we ſent you by the
laſt Poſt, changing ſome Particulars therein.
If they do not content themſelves with a ſingle
Full-Power, and inſiſt on having another, as
Monſieur *Beverning* affirms to be abſolutely ne-
ceſſary; we ſhall endeavour to reduce them to
four, by reaſon of the Conſequence which will
enſue from that which is demanded for the E-
lector of *Brandenburg*, with reſpect to all the o-
ther Princes of *Germany*; and the Mediators
themſelves,

themselves acknowledge it will be sufficient that the Ambassadors of *Sweden* promise one (as they have offer'd) from the King their Master, for the Elector to that End. Of the four, there will be two, one for the Emperor, and another for *Spain*, in which express Mention will be made of the Pope's Mediation, and in the two others in general Terms, only according to the Scheme we have sent you. Lastly, Sir, if we cannot terminate these Difficulties after the manner we desire, it will be done as well as we can.

There is a Person come hither, call'd Monsieur de *Gloxin*, whom one of us has seen Envoy of the late Elector of *Mentz* in *England*, and who says he was also Envoy to the King, and is at present oblig'd to retire to *Mentz* to avoid the Persecution of the Emperor's Ministers. He has made us certain very extravagant Proposals, which shew rather a great Desire of being employ'd and of subsisting, than any Appearance of Success: But to omit nothing, which may perhaps, contrary to our Judgment, produce any Effect for the King's Service, we shall only tell you in short, Sir, That he at first assur'd us, that most of the Princes of *Germany* were desirous a Neuter Party might be form'd, to thwart the too great Power of the Emperor, and also prevent the entire Ruin of the *Swedes*: That the Elector of *Saxony* and many other Princes were of the same Opinion; and that he believes if this Affair were well negotiated, it might be brought to a good Issue: For that Purpose, he propos'd to act by a Commission from the King of *England*, and under Colour of exhorting the Princes of *Germany*, jointly to promote a Peace: He added, that in order to begin in some measure

ſure this Negotiation, it would be requiſite to hearken to the Propoſals made by the Duke of *Saxe-Hall*, to raiſe for the Service of *Sweden*, five or ſix thouſand Men in the Country of *Magdeburg*, of which he is Adminiſtrator, to put *Magdeburg* alſo into the Hands of the *Swedes*, if they are in a condition to make themſelves Maſters of it: He aſſures us, that the Eleſtor of *Saxony* will ſupport the Interests of his Brother, and if once the *Swediſh* Party recovers Strength in *Germany*, it will give Occaſion to many other Princes, who can no longer endure that the Emperor ſhould burden them with Winter Quarters, and govern deſpotically, to enter into the Neutrality, which would oblige the Emperor to make Peace. Laſtly, Sir, the Tendency of all theſe great Propoſals, is to cauſe to be paid beforehand to the ſaid Prince of *Saxony*, a Sum of 22 or 23000 Crowns which he pretends is due to him for the Subſiſtence of a certain Regiment, formerly rais'd for the King's Service, or for that of the Eleſtor of *Cologne*. Sir, you may judge better than we, whether any good uſe can be made of theſe Propoſals, and whether the ſaid *Sieur de Gloxin*, whom you know perhaps, deſerves to have the Offer he has made of paſſing into *France*, accepted. Sir, we wiſh you all Happineſs in the new Year we are now enter'd upon, and that it may be follow'd by many others of the like Nature: Being, &c.

POST.

P O S T S C R I P T.

THE Mediators have shew'd us a Letter from the Magistrates of the City of *Hamburg*, wherein they justify as well as they can, the Occasions that Town has given the King of Treating them as Enemies; and desire that His Majesty would vouchsafe to grant Passports for the Deputies they design to send to this Assembly: May it please you, Sir, to notifie to us what Answer we shall return to the Mediators upon this Article, in case His Majesty does not think fit to allow it.

LETTER

of the Mareſc. d' Eſtrades, &c. 143

LETTER

From the King to the Ambaſſadors.

Dated January 1. 1677.

Couſin, Meſſieurs Colbert and Count d' Avoaux; the Diſpatch you ſent to Me of the 25th ult. treats for the moſt part of the Difficulty the Ambaſſador of Brandenburg has ſtated, not to receive a Viſit, unleſs you gave the Title of Excellency, and the Precedency to his Colleague as well as to him: It is ſtrange he ſhould inſiſt on a Claim, which is over-ruled by a continual Cuſtom, the Examples whereof are ſtill ſo freſh in the Diet of Frankfort, for the Election of the Emperor. I am very well ſatisfy'd, that you ſtood up for an Uſage, from which you cannot depart without prejudicing your Character. Monſieur Somnitz ſhould have taken at firſt the Expedient he has ſince propos'd to you, of receiving your ſingle Viſit, and returning it to you all three: But this Medium appears impracticable at this Day, becauſe in the long Continuance of this Difficulty, he has without doubt viſited other Ambaſſadors; and in that caſe you are no longer in a Condition to receive his Viſit. I have preſcrib'd to you in your Inſtructions, and farther confirm it; That you are to reſuſe the Viſits of thoſe Miniſters who ſhall not begin to pay them firſt to you. As to the Expedient you propos'd, to give them to underſtand the Conduſt you are oblig'd to obſerve; I do not approve that you ſhould demonſtrate them, when you ſend to them to deſire Audience, ſince you may claim with Juſtice that they

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they visit you before the other Ambassadors. This would discover a Doubt which you ought not to raise upon a Matter, that can't be question'd; but in case they send to you to desire to know the Hour when they may wait upon you, and you should then know that they had been with some other Ambassador, you may refuse to receive them, and let 'em know the Reason thereof: And if it happen'd (even as you suppose) that they should send several Gentlemen at the same time, to divers Ambassadors, and that in a just belief they would begin with you, you assign'd them a certain Hour; if within that time they make any other Visit first, and come afterwards to you, you should then permit them to come to your Gate, and certify them that they could not see you: By all these Arguments and Methods, you would establish the Maxim which I desire may take place at *Nimeguen*, That next to the Mediators (which is a Matter of no Importance) and the Ambassadors of the Emperor, you would maintain yourselves in all the Prerogatives that are due to Me.

As to what concerns the Difficulty you started, that having given your first Visits together, it will be reasonable you should receive separately those which should be return'd to you; tho' you take notice, that this Custom was observ'd with Regard to the Ambassadors of *England*, the same Reasons which shew'd Me the Inconveniencies of that Conduct, appear to Me always to subsist, after the same manner, as you represent, that the Returning of the Visits be made separately with Respect to you; the Ambassadors of the Emperor and *Spain* may demand that you should visit them in particular; and this would be to fall back again into the Perplexity

plexity which I judg'd it expedient to avoid : The Example even of the *Hanse-Towns* in the Treaty of *Munſter*, does not ſeem to take Place upon this Occaſion ; ſince the Pretenſions we may have with Regard to Towns ſo inconfiderable, cannot be ſupported upon an equal Foot with thoſe of crown'd Heads. Therefore, I think it ſtill requiſite, that as you pay your firſt Viſits together, you ſhould likewiſe receive jointly thoſe which are return'd to you ; unleſs the Miniſters themſelves deſire them of you ſeparately ; but as for the Claim, 'tis not expedient that you ſhould declare yourſelves thereupon.

I have laid before you ſo many facile Methods touching the Difficulties which were ſtarted upon the Full-Powers, that if no Deſign were form'd to put off the Conferences, they would have been ended long ago : It alſo appears, that the *States-General* look'd upon 'em as very weak ; when they wou'd all the others, to inſiſt only that the Pope's Mediation ſhould not be mention'd ; the ſhortest way (according to *Monſieur Beverning's* Propoſal) would be to mention none at all, if the Ambaſſadors of *England* were willing to conſent thereto : But even as to this Point, I have furniſh'd you with means to prevent the Retarding of the Negotiation ; and if *Monſieur Beverning* had ſpoke ſincerely, he ought to have inſtantly explain'd himſelf, as to the Propoſals which he declar'd he would make. The only Fruit I promiſe myſelf to reap from the Conduſt I have enjoin'd you to obſerve, is, to ſhew that in the miſt of the Advantages of War, I am readily inclin'd to any thing which may conduce to a Peace. For

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the rest, I pray God, to take you, my Cousin, into his holy and worthy Care, and you, Messieurs Colbert and Count d'Avant, into his sacred Protection.

Written at St. Germain-en-Laye, the 7th Day of January, 1677. Sig'd LOUIS; and underneath, ARNAULD.

LETTER

From Monsieur de Pomponne to the Ambassadors.

Dated January 7. 1677.

Gentlemen,

THE King's Letter fully answers your Dispatch, and the private Letter which you were pleas'd to send to me of the 25th ult. It discovers to you His Majesty's Sentiments, touching the Ceremonies of your Visits, so that 'tis needless for me to add any thing thereto.

I own the Receipt of your two Letters, of the 20th of the last Month, and the first of this, of which I could not give an Account to His Majesty, till this Morning: It only remains for me to assure you, Gentlemen, that I am entirely at your Service, and will both for your particular Honour and the Benefit of Europe, that this Year may be successful, for the great Work you have upon your Hands.

LET.

of the Mareſc. d' Eſtrades, &c. 147

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to the King.

Dated January 8. 1677.

SIRE,

YOUR Maſteſty's Diſpatch of the 31ſt of laſt Month, and the preceding, have remov'd the Difficulties form'd hitherto upon the Full-Powers, and prevented all thoſe which might be rais'd for the future; ſo that in the Capacity they have put us, to induce the Ambaſſadors of *Holland* to ſpeak clearly, we ſhall ſhortly have occaſion to give an Account to Your Maſteſty, whether all the Steps and Promiſes they have made us, and are ſtill making, to enter upon Buſineſs, are in good Earneſt; or whether they are only Artifices, to gain time and favour the Eviſions of their Allies; and we ſhall omit nothing to put in Execution, all the Orders Your Maſteſty has given us upon that Affair, which we thoroughly underſtand.

We have made a Diſcovery of an Obſtacle which hinders the Advancement of a ſeparate Treaty with the *State*: It is by means of two of the Mediators, the third of whom, viz. my Lord *Berkley* imparted the Affair to me d'*Avaux* in a Conference I had with him, after having requir'd the ſtrictest Secrecy, which I promiſ'd him, with all the Thanks that a Buſineſs ſo important as that deſerv'd.

Sire, This Discovery, of which we give an Account to Your Majesty, is, that Sir *William Temple* and Sir *Lionel Jenkins* being apprehensive that we should make a Treaty with the *States-General*, because on the one hand, they judge it conformable to our Interests, and they knew and perceiv'd on the other hand, by Monsieur *Beverning's* Discourse, that if the Allies would not agree to the Conditions of Peace upon reasonable Terms, his Masters might, in that case, make a separate Treaty; The said Sir *William Temple*, and Sir *Lionel Jenkins*, being under this Apprehension of a separate Treaty, to hinder it, thought fit to write to the King of *Great-Britain* their Master, and represent to him of what Consequence such a Treaty between *France* and *Holland* would be to *England*; and that too, by a Letter drawn up without the Knowledge of my Lord *Berkley*, who having luckily surpris'd Sir *Lionel Jenkins*, as he was writing it, and being offended at it, and complaining thereof, he could get no other Answer, but that if it were not conformable to his Opinion, he might insert his contrary Arguments at the bottom of the Letter. Your Majesty may judge by this Discourse, that we have just now found the Mediators set against every thing we would do by their Mediation in this private Treaty; and that the most advantageous Stop for your Service, would be to treat, as far as it lies in our Power, directly with Monsieur *Beverning*.

We will return Answer to the Ambassadors of *Sweden*, in the Terms which Your Majesty prescribes us, upon the Demand of Count *Ko-ningsmark*, for a Remittance of 10000 Crowns

per

per Month, out of the Subsidy upon the Term
of July.

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LETTER

From the Ambassadors to Monsieur de Pomponne.

Dated January 8. 1677.

SIR,

WE have receiv'd the Letter you did us the Honour to write to us, of the 31st ult. with His Majesty's Dispatches. We believe we ought to add to what we had the Honour to write to the King, concerning the Secret which my Lord Berkley imparted to one of us, that after he had given him the Marks of Obligation and Acknowledgment for that Piece of Service, and promis'd him all the Secrecy which the matter requir'd, he took occasion to enlarge still farther, and told him that he was look'd upon here, as a Person in the Interest of France: Don Pedro Ronquillo has seen his Collegues in private, and did not make him the least Compliment; Count Kinsky did not speak to him neither; and there are none but are distrustful of him, even his very Collegues: Nevertheless, he has receiv'd a small Affront in France, which he says would not have been offer'd to any other, that is, with Respect to his Baggage, which is stop'd at Rouen, for some Reason which we know not. We are, Sir, entirely devoted to your Service.

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LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to the King.

Dated January 12. 1677.

SIRE,

THE Mediators have been with us, to return the Answer of Count *Kinsky*, to that which we made them upon account of his first Viſit, and of which we inform'd your Maſteſty in our laſt Diſpatch. They told us, that Count *Kinsky* declar'd to them, that he would treat with us as it is uſually done in all the Courts of Europe, and in the Holy Empire. We ſuſpected thoſe ambiguous Words, and gave the Mediators to underſtand, that it was not agreeable either to the Rules of Decency, or to our Dignity, to enter into certain Particulars, which nevertheleſs it was not neceſſary to explain to Monſieur *Kinsky*; that it was more adviſable, that ſhould be done by the Mediators. As for Example, to propoſe to him, as an Expedient to extricate himſelf out of that Affair, that he would aſſure them, he had not notified his Arrival to any body; that he ſhould not return the Viſit, which the Ambaſſador of *Denmark* made him of, his own voluntary Motion, till he had firſt given Notice of his Arrival to all the Ambaſſadors who are here, and receiv'd their Viſits; that he might alſo (if he were deſirous, in good Earneſt, that we ſhould viſit him) take the Meaſures which my Lord *Berkley* and the Ambaſſador of *Denmark*

had made use of; which are, to cause Notice to be given to us an Hour before the others, and by that Means, to put us into a Capacity of paying him a Visit in time, and of receiving his; that if Count *Kinsky* made a Scruple to declare himself so positively to us, upon that Precedency, we would consent, that he should only explain himself thereupon to the Mediators, with a Promise, that they would say nothing of it to us; and that 'twas sufficient for us, that after they had the Promise of Monsieur *Kinsky*, they should give us theirs, wherewith we would be satisfied. Sire, we propos'd to the Mediators to speak all this, as it were from themselves; because we declared to them, that we would give them nothing in Charge on our part, and that we should know what we had to do, when they treated us as they ought.

Sire, the Mediators have acquitted themselves in every thing we desired of them, with all possible Fidelity and Exactness, and have returned us an Answer, in which Count *Kinsky* explains himself very clearly, that he will hold no Correspondence with us: But he was so far from disowning the Negotiation, that he declared to them, he had set it on Foot, and had receiv'd in Consequence thereof, the Visits of the Ambassador of *Denmark*, and some others, to whom he would return them, and then give Notice of his Arrival to all the Ambassadors who are here. He told them, he would send at the same time to us, and give the first Audience to him who first desir'd it. The Mediators are offended, as well as we, with that Answer, seeing that Count *Kinsky* designs to make two Notifications, and two sorts of Visits, the one *Incognito*, and the other with Ceremony; as if by making a Publick

lick Entry, (which no body has done, the King of *Great-Britain* having given Proof in all the Courts, that he did not deſire it) Count *Kinsky* would introduce a thing contrary to the Order eſtabliſhed in this City, by the general Conſent of all the Ambaſſadors, who are here; and all this with a Deſign to confound us, and to breed Controverſies. For this reaſon, the Mediators ſtrongly oppoſe him; and 'tis on that account, that they do not approve of the Expedient for making new Modifications; and have declared, that they will not receive, nor pay any other Viſits of Ceremony, than thoſe which they have made. As for us, we cannot admit of that Propoſal of a ſecond Notification, upon any Account, eſpecially with the Clauſes which *Monſieur Kinsky* inſerts therein; becauſe by that Means, we ſhould fall into a greater Perplexity. Firſt, *Don Pedro Ronquillo* might, before that new Notification, give Notice of his Arrival; and then, being here in Publick, the Ambaſſador of the Emperor would certainly receive the firſt Viſit; beſides the Ambaſſador of *Sweden* being at the Gate of the Ambaſſador of the Emperor, when the latter ſhould ſend his Gentlemen at the ſame time, to all his Ambaſſadors, that of *Sweden* would have Notice above a quarter of an Hour before us, and would have the firſt Audience: So that either *Don Pedro Ronquillo* wou'd go before us, or tho' he ſhould not as yet appear, we ſhould be forced to ſtand in Competition with *Sweden* and *Denmark*, which would be ſtill worſe. Therefore, Sire, we believ'd, after we had propos'd by Word of Mouth, and in the Name of the Mediators, all poſſible Expedients, of facilitating that Interview; and after we had perceiv'd, that *Monſieur Kinsky* had no Mind

to see us, but to create us Trouble; that we could do nothing else than intreat the Mediators to tell him, on our part, that since he was desirous to know how we would treat him, we sent him Word, that we would treat him as we would treat an Ambassador of the Emperor, when he should treat us as he ought to treat the Ambassadors of *France*.

Sire, we thought this would have been our last Answer; but the Mediators lately desiring of us one more positive, on the part of Count *Kinsky*, told us, at the same time, the Manner after which he explain'd himself to them last of all; which is, That he would absolutely make a new Notification to all the Ambassadors who are here; that he will do it to all at the same time; that he who first desired an Audience of him, should have it first. And he added to all this, what he had declared before, That he to whom he should give the first Audience, should also receive the first Visit from him.

After such a Declaration, there was no more room to doubt of the ill Intention of Monsieur *Kinsky*. We only consulted what Course we should take; whether we should stand to our first Answer, and let him do afterwards what he thought fit; or explain ourselves farther. We judg'd it expedient, not to insist upon our last Answer, *viz.* To treat him as an Ambassador of the Emperor, when he should treat us as Ambassadors of *France*; because, since it was neither to accept of, nor to reject him, he might bring us under an Inconveniency, by sending to notify his Arrival to us all at the same time; in which, it will be requisite, in desiring an Audience of him, to oblige him to explain him-

himſelf as to the Viſit we ſhould make him, and that which he ſhould return to us; which we could do neither with the ſame Safety by a Gentleman, as we now do, by the Mediators, nor with the ſame Decorum, becauſe he is, at preſent, the Petitioner, and then it would devolve upon us. For this reaſon, we told the Mediators, that after Count *Kinsky* declar'd, that he had already notified his Arrival to ſeveral Ambaſſadors and Miniſters, from whom he had alſo receiv'd a Viſit; the ſecond Notification which he deſigns to make, is contrary to the Cuſtom eſtabliſhed in this Aſſembly, at the Requeſt of the King of *England*, and to the unanimous Conſent of all thoſe, who arriv'd here before him, and by them obſerved without Controverſy. So that, we who are not willing to admit of a new Cuſtom, contrary to the Intention of his *Britanniſh* Maſteſty, cannot receive ſuch a Notification, after what has paſſ'd. We made uſe of theſe Arguments, tho' we had others, becauſe they rank in our Party, the King of *Great-Britain*, and the Ambaſſadors of *Holland*, who were deſirous of, and have executed the ſame Regulation; the rather, becauſe the Mediators perſiſt in their firſt Reſolution, Not to receive a ſecond Notification; and to hold the Viſit they have made, for the ſole and only one which ought to be made, without being willing to pay another.

Beſides, Sire, one of us is informed, by a truſty Perſon, that Monſieur *Kinsky*, having notified his Arrival, by Gentlemen, to all the Ambaſſadors, except thoſe of *France* and *Sweden*, the Ambaſſadors of the *States* demanded of the ſaid Monſieur *Kinsky*, whether that were not his

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real Notification, and declar'd, they had paid him their first Visit in Town. We have been also certainly informed, that Don *Pedro Ronquillo*, who was here a Month ago, and induced the Publick to believe, that if he did not notify his Arrival before Monsieur *Kinsky*, it was to prevent giving us Trouble; and that he also alledged that Reason to the Ambassadors of the *States*, when they press'd him to declare himself. So far was he from having any Thoughts of avoiding all sorts of Contests, with a Design to raise greater; and that he design'd to declare himself one Day before Monsieur *Kinsky* made his intended Notification. 'Tis true, it was said, at the same time, That the Affair was not adjusted between Count *Kinsky* and Don *Ronquillo*; but it was sufficient, that he had a Design, to believe he would put it into Execution, if we did not extricate ourselves out of that Difficulty.

We have had a Conference upon that Affair, with the Ambassadors of *Sweden*, who are not of our Opinion. Our Views and Arguments are also very different: But so far as we have not explain'd them, we took no Care mutually to persuade one another. They strongly insisted, that it would be advantageous, to establish, as far as possible, a Correspondence with our Enemies; that they had, with regard to them, positive Orders for that purpose, and not unadvisedly to raise Difficulties, in the Beginning, upon Things for which they might find out Expedients; and it appear'd to them, that the Offer made by Monsieur *Kinsky*, to make a second Notification, was very reasonable. We repeated all our Arguments to them, to give them to under-

underſtand, that that ſecond Notification was not only contrary to the Intentions of the King of *Great-Britain*, but even that it could not remedy any thing; ſince the Mediators would not admit of it; and therefore, it was only incumbent upon the Ambaſſador of *Denmark*, to qualify his firſt Viſit in ſuch a manner, as ſhould pleaſe him; and to declare, that that which he ſhould do after the ſecond Notification, ſhould not be a Viſit of Ceremony: Thus he ſhould always receive and repay it before us; but we told them, that that Affair ought not to be handled by us as a common Buſineſs; that every one had his Orders, and particular Reaſons; that as to ourſelves, we could not admit of any Medium, in what relates to the Honour and Dignity of your Maſteſty.

Sire, we perceive that thoſe Gentlemen, one of whom, namely, *Monſieur Oxenſtiern*, entirely adheres to the Court of the Emperor, are inclined to accept of the ſecond Notification. They were extremely deſirous, that we ſhould do the ſame thing; but what induc'd them to preſs us to receive it, is precisely that which determin'd us abſolutely to reject it. They know the Declaration the Emperor's Ambaſſador has made, as to the Manner how he will ſend Gentlemen to the Ambaſſadors, and the Order of the Viſits he is to receive: And they make account, that when prejudicate Favour ſhall induce the Emperor's Ambaſſador to communicate his Arrival to *Don Pedro de Ronquillo*, ſuppoſing he bears a Publick Character here, or when he is not here, to the Ambaſſador of *Denmark*; it is certain, that *Monſieur Oxenſtiern*, who lives over-againſt the Emperor's Ambaſſador,

dor, will always have Notice thereof before us; and thus, when he is visited after *Denmark*, it would always be too honourable, since it is before us. This, Sire, is our present State with respect to Monsieur *Kinsky*, in which we shall apparently continue.

Sire, we have already given your Majesty a slight Account of an Affair, which has not been well explain'd to us; and the Mediators told us yesterday, that the Emperor made a Decree in the Month of *November* last, whereby he declares, that the Ambassadors of *Brandenburg* should be all Three treated with the Title of Excellency, and have the Precedency; and enjoin'd his Ambassadors to deal with them in that manner; and those of *Brandenburg* pretend, that that Order of the Emperor makes a Law for us. We said thereupon all that we ought, to the Mediators, who wrote about it to their Master.

Sire, no Answer has been return'd to us touching the Affair of the Powers. We are sensible, that the Arrival of Monsieur *Kinsky* occasions this Procrastination; but we know not, whether the Ambassadors of the *States* will suffer themselves to be amus'd long by him and *Don Ronquillo*; or whether, after they have complain'd so often and so publickly of the House of *Austria's* delaying the Conferences of Peace, they will, at last, have the Courage to make a separate Agreement with us, about the Form of the Powers; since they have declared to the Mediators, they are well satisfied with that which we communicate to them, and that they were ready to consent thereto.

Sire,

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Sire, we have notified to the Ambassadors of Sweden, your Majesty's Readiness to concur with every thing that might tend to the Advantage of the King their Master, and the great Benefit which may redound to them, from the Assurance your Majesty has vouchsafed to give to Monsieur Adleskron, that the Remittance which may be made of 10000 Crowns a Month, shall be paid, when you shall discharge, in the Month of July, the Term of the Subsidy which shall be then expir'd. Those Gentlemen express'd to us a great deal of Joy at this Piece of News, and told us, they would speedily communicate the same to Monsieur Koningmark. We are, with a profound Respect, Sire, &c.

It is certain, that most of the Ambassadors do not perplex themselves with such idle notions. They are, however, one way or another, and the other with some money to that purpose, we shall be obliged to answer them, who will hold the same. But countess with us as the King has done, and to whom we shall not return the same Answer. We desire to know of you, whether in that case
Power, the Queen, common to many Kings, that the President, for receiving this is only inherent to the Dignity of the Nation who first paid them. We let you to add an Explanation to all this we have already desired of us, we believe to be very necessary.

LETTER

We desire to know of you, whether in that case

LETTER

*From the Ambassadors to Monsieur
de Pomponne.*

Dated January 12. 1677.

SIR,

WE have given the King a large Account of all our Contests about the Affair of Monsieur *Kinsky's* first Visit; but we thought nothing ought to be omitted relating to so nice a Matter, which so nearly concerns his Majesty's Honour. You may well judge, by the Beginning, that the other Ambassadors of the Emperor, and part of those who are our Enemies, will follow the same Method. And you are sensible, Sir, that our Allies will also be very desirous to establish here, as far as lies in their Power, this Claim, common to many Kings, that the Precedency for receiving Visits is only inherent to the Diligence of the Person, who first paid them. We intreat you to add an Explanation to all those we have already desired of you, which we believe to be very necessary.

'Tis certain, that most of the Ambassadors do not perplex themselves about this double Visit, namely, one *Incognito*, and the other with Ceremony; so that, perhaps, we shall be obliged to answer Persons, who will hold the same Discourses with us as Count *Kinsky* has done, and to whom we shall not return the same Answers. We desire to know of you, whether in that case,

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we may declare, that thoſe Gentlemen being deſirous, in the returning of Viſits, to follow the Order of thoſe they have receiv'd, and by that Means, to prejudice our Right; we may not receive their Compliment; or elſe, without entering into any Explication, only give them to underſtand, that ſince the Quarrel they have begun againſt us transports them ſo far, as not to give us what is our due; we cannot viſit them upon any Account.

Sir, we plainly perceive, that Monſieur *Kinsky's* Deſign is not to viſit us; and to hinder, as far as lies in his Power, all the Ambaſſadors who come hither, from giving us a Viſit in like manner, to the end they may make it appear to *Denmark* and *Holland*, that 'tis not reaſonable they only ſhould have the Privilege of holding a Correſpondence with us. But beſides that we cannot do otherwiſe, 'tis certain the Mediators are perſuaded of Monſieur *Kinsky's* Intention; that they ought to write of it in that Senſe, to the King their Maſter; that the Ambaſſadors of *Holland* ſee plainly into it; and that this will not hinder them from agreeing with us, when they ſhall be diſpoſed thereto.

Sir, 'tis ſaid, the Ambaſſadors of the Emperor and of *Spain*, are not agreed with thoſe of the *States-General* about the Powers; the former inſiſting, that they ſhould be general, and the latter deſiring them ſeparate.

A Rumour is alſo ſpread abroad, about certain Reprisals which the *States* are willing to make upon the *Spaniards*; but the Execution of them is deferr'd for three Weeks, upon the Promiſe which Monſieur *de Villabermosa* made, to pay off all that is due to the *Hollanders*, by that time. We are not ſatisfied with the long Stay of
Sir

Sir *William Temple* with the Prince of *Orange*, and we had much rather have him here.

Sir, we give ourselves the Honour to send you the Copy of a Letter, which a Person of our Acquaintance has receiv'd from *Leipsick*: 'Tis a sufficient Proof of what has been told us from other Hands, that the Circle of *Lower-Saxony* has resolv'd not to bear the Winter-Quarters, but to oppose the Emperor with open Force. Here is also a Memorial, which the Mediators sent us just now. We have made no Answer thereto, but that we would give you an Account of it. We are, Sir, with Sincerity, entirely at your Service.

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LETTER

From the King to the Ambassadors.

Dated January 14. 1677.

Cousin, Messieurs Colbert and Count d'Avaux; I have answer'd your Letters of the 29th ult. and the 1st and 5th of this instant. I have no new Orders to give you, concerning the affected Difficulties, which still remain about some Terms of the Full-Powers: The manner after which I order'd you to act in that Affair, I was enough to have exhausted all the Artifices of my Enemies Ministers, if their Intention of putting off the Negotiations of Peace, were less visible. You have seen after what manner I design'd to agree about a general Full-Power, which should be drawn up by the Mediators: You know the Mediums I thought fit to admit of, either to make no mention at all of any Mediation, or to specify that of the Pope and separate Powers, for Spain and the Emperor; and that I have prevented what was desir'd of you since: But besides, this manner of Acting ought to have appear'd Monsieur Beverning; and farther, he seems even to come back at this instant to the Terms of your Full-Powers, upon which he form'd the first Difficulties: Besides, I have reason to doubt, whether his Design of Treating, before the Arrivall of the Ministers of Spain

Spain and the Emperor, was ever sincere : Also the Demand of that Diversity of Powers, is a great Sign thereof; especially when they were extended even to the Elector of *Brandenburg*. Forasmuch as the other Electors and Princes of the Empire, would have the same reason to lay Claim thereto; this would be to multiply them, with little Honour, *ad infinitum*. Neither can I consent to any, but those which are for the Emperor, the King of *Spain*, the King of *Denmark*, and the *States-General*; and I sufficiently shew my Readiness to forward the Conferences, when I consent to an Innovation which has no Precedent in former Treaties. Hitherto all the Parties in War, have been compriz'd in one and the same Full-Power; but to avoid regarding the Conferences, I consent to four which you have offer'd, after the same manner as you have propos'd, to make mention therein of the Pope's Mediation with Respect to the Emperor, and the King of *Spain*. But forasmuch as I have made you Masters of several Expedients relating to the said Affair; I also permit you to make use of that which you shall judge the most speedy, and the most capable of bringing it to an Issue.

There are grounds to believe, That the considerable Change which the Victory of the King of *Sweden* over *Denmark* has occasion'd in the Affairs of the Allies, will make them more reasonable at the same time that it will render the Accommodation more necessary. I expect great Consequences from it, and wish (as I flatter myself) the King of *Sweden*

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Sweden ſhould finiſh the Conqueſt of *Schonen* this Winter, there is a great deal of Reaſon to believe, that he will re-eſtabliſh his Affairs in the Empire this next Campagne. For the reſt, I pray God, to take you, my Couſin, into his holy and worthy Care, and you, *Mefſieurs Colbert* and *Count d'Avaux*, into his ſacred Protection.

Written at St. Germain-en-Laye, the 14th of January, 1677. Sign'd LOUIS, and underneath ARNAULD.

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LETTER

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LETTER
From Monsieur de Pomponne to the
Ambassadors.

Dated January 14. 1677.

Gentlemen,

IF there were no reason to apprehend that the Ambassadors of the *States General*, would still raise other Difficulties to put off the Negotiation; there would be grounds to believe, that by means of those facile Methods you have laid down, as to the Full-Powers, you might put an end to those Delays, so apparently affected. His Majesty's Letter gives you to understand, That he approves of the Expedient you propos'd; and that at this Instant, when Monsieur de Somnitz look'd upon as already receiv'd, the Visit you design'd to make him, His Majesty thinks fit you should receive his, because he will visit you before every other Minister.

His Majesty has order'd me to tell you, upon that Subject of Visiting, That altho' by his last Dispatch, he left you at liberty to receive separately your first Visits, in case the Ambassadors, to whom you had paid them all three together, should be dispos'd
of

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of themſelves to return them to you ſeparately; nevertheless, he has ſince judg'd and deſires, that (to prevent expoſing you to the Accident of being intercepted,) whether you pay them or receive them, you ſhould do it all three together: This is to be underſtood of the firſt Viſits; but forasmuch as thoſe which ſhall be paid thereafter are of no great Moment, he leaves you at liberty as you ſhall think fit, to return them ſeparately.

His Maſteſty thinks you ought to be content with the Satisfaction the *States-General* and the Prince of *Orange* have given you, concerning the Inſult which was made upon *Monſieur Deſcarrieres*; and whereas the Punishment of the Trooper is referr'd to you, he approves that you ſhould ask Pardon for him for the Fault he committed.

The *Sieur Gloxin* has been formerly at this Court. The Propoſals he made you, may proceed from a good Zeal, or rather from a Deſign of finding out a Method to get ſome Money; but, Gentlemen, all that you can do is, to praife his good Intentions, without engaging him in Journeys: It will be ſufficient to let him know, that his Good-Will ſhall be reſerv'd for other Occaſions.

His Maſteſty is willing to grant Paſports to the Deputies of *Hamburgh*, tho' they may be needless for them, in order to repair to *Nimeguen*; but till now, the Aſſembly has not been

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been so form'd, that they can have any need of Members from the Imperial Towns: Hitherto, only the City of Strasburg has demanded them. I am, Gentlemen, with a great deal of Sincerity, entirely devoted to your Service.

all these considerations, I am to be understood as those of the new Vint, but I am to be understood as those which shall be said to be the interest of no great Moment, as leaves you at liberty as you shall think fit, to receive them or not.

His Majesty's orders you ought to be obeyed, and with the satisfaction the States General, and the Prince of Orange have given you, concerning the latter which was made upon the 14th of October, and which the Prince of Orange has given you.

the 14th of the Troop is referred to you, as appears that you should be Pardon for all for the Prince of Orange's command.

His Majesty's orders you ought to be obeyed, and with the satisfaction the States General, and the Prince of Orange have given you, concerning the latter which was made upon the 14th of October, and which the Prince of Orange has given you.

LETTER

His Majesty is willing to grant Pardon to the Deputies of the States, that they may be enabled for their order to return to the States; but till now, the Assembly has not been

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LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to the King.

Dated January 15. 1677.

SIRE,

WE have not as yet had any Answer concerning the Powers, and, we plainly perceive, that Count *Kinsky* has detained Monsieur *Beverning*. by the Hopes he gave him, that he will appear forthwith in Publick, and agree with us about a Form. If the Reasons he alledged were founded upon a good Intention, the two Days during which we are oblig'd to ſtay, would not, perhaps, appear to us of very great Conſequence. But we ought to fear, leſt *Don Pedro Ronquillo* ſhould afterwards hold on in the ſame Story, and gain another Week; after which, we believe, all their Eviſions will be at an End; and we doubt not, but Monsieur *Beverning* will enter ſeriously upon Buſineſs; at leaſt, he declares it to all with whom he ſpeaks.

Sire, The clear and final Answer which we gave Count *Kinsky*, has brought him to think a little with himſelf; and Sir *Lionel Jenkins* told us yeſterday, That that Ambaſſador diſown'd his having made any Notification, as well as his having given Notice of his Arrival to any Ambaſſador, except the Mediators; adding, that the Viſit which he receiyed from the Ambaſſador of *Denmark*, was as it were from a Friend, which he made of his own pure Motion, and without any Ceremony; That Monsieur *Kinsky* deſign'd to acquaint all the Ambaſſadors, who are here, with his Arrival; and he, Sir *Lionel Jenkins*, promiſ'd us, we ſhould have all manner of Satisfaction, either in

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the sending of Count *Kinsky's* Gentleman, or in the Audience he should give us, at his own House, and in that which he should afterwards demand of us. Forasmuch as this last Article, concerning the Order of the Visits, detain'd us, by reason that Monsieur *Kinsky* had hitherto explain'd himself quite otherwise; we receiv'd that Offer with great Joy; because, by that means, we shall have a Communication with Monsieur *Kinsky*, who will no longer have any Pretence of taking it ill, that the Ambassadors of the States hold a Correspondence with us; and after so long a Contest, we shall oblige the Emperor's Ambassadors to render what is due to the Character, with which your Majesty has honour'd us. We doubt not but *Don Pedro Ronquillo* will follow the same Method shortly, when he comes to give Notice of his Arrival.

We have very opportunely receiv'd the Orders Your Majesty gave us in your Letter of the 7th instant, relating to Monsieur *Somnitz*: For he has not as yet visit'd any Body, no, not even the Mediators; so that we shall discover, with Sir *Lionel Jenkins*, what Monsieur *Somnitz* designs to do, and whether he will follow the Example of Count *Kinsky*, as it is probable, and give us the first Visit, next to the Mediators. We should receive it, as we have already done, if we had not reason to believe, while Monsieur *Kinsky* treated us so ill, that the Design of Monsieur *Somnitz* was not to give us what is our due: We are entirely at your Service.

LETTER

of the Mareſc. d'Eſtrades, &c. 171

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur
de Pomponne.

Dated January 15. 1677.

S I R,

WE ſhall only add one Word to the Letter we did ourſelves the Honour to write to the King, to give you an Account of a Difficulty we lay under; it proceeds from hence, that my Lord *Berkley* ſo hotly eſpouſes his Maſteſty's Interests, that he not only demanded of Monſieur *Kinsky*, Why he would not promiſe to give us the firſt Audience, or, Whether he intended to deny *France* the Precedency above all others? but he alſo told him, that all the Difficulties they ſtarted, were only to retard the Peace, and with an ill Deſign; inſomuch that Monſieur *Kinsky* being offended with that Diſcourſe, ſpoke to Sir *Lionel Jenkins* alone, concerning this laſt Propoſal, without giving Notice thereof to my Lord *Berkley*. We deſir'd of Sir *Lionel Jenkins*, that we might ſignifie ſomewhat of it to my Lord *Berkley*, aſſuring him we would not tell him, that the Affair had been negotiated through his Mediation. Sir, this is what we did, with which they were both very well ſatiſfied. We thought ourſelves obliged not to ſuffer a Man to be excluded, who is entirely engaged in this Affair, and ſo zealous for our Interests: But we intreated him at the ſame time, not to ſhew his good Affection ſo publickly, for fear of rendring it unſucceſſful; nevertheleſs, he is a worthy Gentleman, whoſe free

Temper is known to you, which we have much ado to restrain, upon all Occasions.

Monsieur Voëller has not been able to make use of the Passport which the King was generously pleas'd to grant him; and he has desir'd us to procure him another. Sir, We have taken upon us to write to you in his Favour, because that on the like Occasion he is very serviceable to us at *Brussels*. We know not whether you have receiv'd any News, that the Elestor of *Brandenburg* has given Passports to the Marquis de *Vitry*. We are Sir, entirely at your Service.

LETTER

From the Ambassadors to the King.

Dated January 19. 1677.

S I R E,

IT is almost a Month ago, since, by the Orders Your Majesty gave us, which we executed without delay, all the Difficulties that were form'd about the Full Powers, should have been entirely determin'd; but, forasmuch as the Consent we gave from that time to that particular Town which was most agreeable to the Ambassadors of the States-General, and their Allies, left no room to make use of new Artifices; they had need of so long a time to produce that which the Mediators communicated to us yesterday Morning. They told us, That the Ambassadors of *Denmark* and the States General, would acquiesce as well for themselves as for their Protestant Allies, with the second Model, a Copy whereof we sent your Majesty three Weeks ago, which was intituled, *The Draught of the Mediators*, render'd according to the

the French Style : But that Count Kinsky, Ambaſſador of the Emperor, and Don Pedro Ronquillo, the Spaniſh Ambaſſador, could not conſent, that no Mention ſhould be made of the Pope's Mediation ; and that ſo expreſs a Nomination ſhould be made of that of the King of Great Britain : That nevertheless they would yield thereto, if inſtead of putting it, ' By the Care and Mediation of the ſaid King, they would inſert it, by the Care and Offices, &c. This Alteration appearing to us very inconfiderable, and the Word Offices being no leſs advantageous to his Britannick Maſteſty, than that of Mediation ; we reſerr'd it to the Mediators, who did not believe, as well as we, that the Honour of the King their Maſter could receive the leaſt Diminution thereby ; ſo that we flatter ourſelves already, that theſe preliminary Difficulties will be ended ; and that we ſhall ſpeedily proceed to more ſolid Conferences : But after we had read the Scheme of the Ambaſſadors of the States-General, in the preſence of the Mediators, we obſerv'd in the firſt Place, that tho' it was conformable to ours, yet they had omitted a very eſſential Word, viz. that of the Allies, ſo that their Power confin'd them only to treat with us, offering, nevertheless, to procure the like for Sweden. This gave us grounds to believe, that they were about to renew a Difficulty, which they did but ſlightly touch upon, when we delivered them our Power ; which was, that no mention could be made of the Allies of France, in a general Term ; and that it was our part to nominate them. Beſides that Difficulty, we found alſo another in the Writing, which reciprocally obliges the Parties to procure Powers like to that Model, within the time agreed on ; Count Kinsky, and Don Pedro Ronquillo, being inclin'd to engage themſelves no farther, than to

use all their Offices and Diligence, in order to obtain them; and saying, that the Respect which they ow'd their Masters, would not permit them to promise that they should be dispatch'd purely and simply. We gave the Mediators to understand, it was very strange, after we had above a Month ago, comply'd with the Ambassadors of the States-General, to leave out all the Terms in our full Powers, against which they had made any Objection, and deliver'd in one, with which they seem'd at first to the Mediators to be satisfy'd; that they should let slip a time so favourable, and so opportune, for the forwarding of the Peace, without returning any Answer: And, that at this Instant, when there is no means left them to find out new Difficulties, upon their own Account, they should start some in the Name of the Ambassadors of the Emperor, and of the King of *Spain*; who not having as yet notified their Arrival, nor communicated their Powers, have no Right to act, excepting, with respect to us.

Moreover, to shew how sincere Your Majesty's Intentions are for the promoting of the Peace, we are ready to sign the Deed or Writing, importing a pure and simple Obligation, to bring, on both sides, a full Power, such as the Ambassadors of the States-General, and the Ambassador of *Denmark* have agreed upon; provided they add to theirs, the Clause of the Allies, which apparently only escap'd the Pen of their Secretary: That if they would change the Term *Mediation* into that of *Offices*, since we believe the latter, as honourable for the King of *Great-Britain*, as the former, we should not oppose the Alteration, if they the Mediators would consent thereto: That we would even pass our Words to them, that if the Ambassadors of the Emperor, and of the King
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of *Spain*, after they had communicated their Powers, alſo offer'd, for terminating all Difficulties, the ſame Expedient with the Ambaſſadors of the States-General, we would ſubmit thereto in like manner, with reſpect to them : And that if they deſir'd ſome other Clause, in which a more expreſs mention is made of the Pope's Mediation, we would alſo conſent thereto ; provided, they oblig'd themſelves reciprocally, and in formal Terms, to bring new Powers at the time appointed.

The Mediators have ſufficiently given us to underſtand, that the Difficulties raiſed by the Ambaſſadors of the Emperor, and of the King of *Spain*, are unwarrantable, and have declared to us, that they are very well ſatisfied with the Sincerity of our Proceedings. We ſhall ſee hereafter, what will be the Succeſs, but at preſent, it does not appear to us, that the Allies deſign to enter upon Buſineſs : And forasmuch as the Ambaſſadors of the States-General, are no leſs perſuaded thereof, than we, if their Intentions and Orders are more ſincere, they will no longer delay to give us due Proof of it. We are with a profound Reſpect,

S I R E, &c.

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LETTER

*From the Ambassadors to Monsieur
de Pomponne.*

Dated January 19. 1677.

S I R,

THE Letter which we give ourselves the Honour to write to the King, will make it appear to you, that all the facil Methods his Majesty has laid down for the forwarding of the Peace, serve only to persuade the Mediators of his good Intentions, and to give the Allies the Trouble of inventing new Artifices, to put off the Negotiation. We do not perceive, to tell you the Truth, what can maintain, in their Debates, this Desire of continuing the War; and, on the contrary, there appear to us so many Reasons, which ought to induce them to put an end thereto, as soon as possible, that we cannot but attribute their Conduct to a great Blindness. Count *Kinsky* has not yet given us Notice of his Arrival, and has feigned an Indisposition, on purpose to have a pretence for Delay: He meets with some Opposition in what he designs to do, with respect to us, on the Part of the Allies, who affirm (as we have been told) that the first Advice which was given them of his Arrival ought to pass for a real Notification: We shall wait for his Coming, and shall do nothing that may be prejudicial to his Majesty's Prerogative.

The Ambassador of *Denmark* having assured us, that we should have, in a short time, the Passports of the King his Master for the Marquis *de Vitry*, and the Count *de Rebenac*; has desir'd one, of us, at the same

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same time, for two Natural Sens of Monsieur *Guldenleeuw*, who is well known to you, Sir, and designs to send them to study at *Saumur*: They bear the same Name of *Guldenleeuw*. We are, Sir, entirely devoted to your Service.

L E T T E R

*From Monsieur de Pomponne to the
Ambassadors.*

Dated January 20. 1677.

NOT being in a Capacity of having the Honour, to give an Account to the King, myself, of your Dispatch of the 8th instant, by reason of a Pitt of an Ague, which hindred me yesterday from going to Council; his Majesty, to whom Monsieur *de Louvois* read it, has signify'd by him, the Orders he had to give you, and commanded me, Gentlemen, to transmit them to you in Writing.

The King is already very well assured of my Lord *Berkley's* Zeal for his Interest; He has receiv'd a great and agreeable Proof thereof, by the Discovery he made to you, of the Sentiments of his Collegues, so opposite to his Majesty's Interests, and as we have reason to believe, even to the Intentions of the King his Master. His Majesty desires, that you should express to him, on his part, with what particular Satisfaction he has receiv'd this new Mark of his Zeal for him, of which he gave him so many Assurances, both during his Residence, and at his Departure from this Court: His Majesty need nor tell you, that by engaging this Nobleman after such a manner, to converse with you still, with greater Freedom,

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you'll make an Advantage of all the Knowledge you may receive from him, as to the Conduct of his Collegues: But, forasmuch as their Proceedings are, at this Instant, so justly suspected, to negociate a separate Peace, he believes, you ought more especially to make a good use of the Dispositions thereon, by Monsieur *Beverning*; to the end that the Negotiation may not be suffer'd to languish, while the Allies continue to retard it: Whence his Majesty is induced to believe, it would turn to very good Account, that you should endeavour, as far as it lies in your Power, to find out means of entering upon Business with him: He also judges, that to clear the first Difficulties, and keep the Secret, in case he acts accordingly as he has explained himself, you may, to prevent the Noise your Visits would occasion, if they were too frequent, make use of the *Sieur des Carrieres*, who seems already to have acquired a sufficient Liberty and Freedom with that Ambassador, and whom his Majesty thinks fit you should entrust with the Management of such Affairs, as you cannot negotiate yourselves.

Gentlemen, there is no longer any necessity of mentioning to you the Difficulties touching the full Powers, unless our Enemies too apparently make use of them for affected Delays. As to what relates to Count *Kinsky*, I wish your first Dispatch would inform the King, that he has visited you before any other Ambassador, and acknowledged in that manner, the Rank which is due to the Character you bear.

I have not yet heard the Complaint made by my Lord *Berkley*, touching his Bales stopt at *Rouen*, because the Passports were given him after the usual manner; and I am much surpriz'd, that they

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they have not had their due Effect. I am
Gentlemen, &c.

L E T T E R

From the Ambaſſadors to the King.

Dated January 22. 1677.

S I R E,

SINCE the laſt Letter we gave ourſelves the Honour to write to your Maſteſty, the principal Difficulty which impeded us, has ceaſed, by the Conſent which the Ambaſſadors of the Emperor, and of the Catholick King, have given to the Deed, importing an Obligation, to bring at a time appointed, new full Powers, conformable to a Scheme, which is to be agreed upon on both ſides: We alſo conſent to that Scheme, excepting, that the Confederates, inſtead of comprehending therein the Allies of *France*, under the pure and ſimple Terms of Allies and Adherents, as we deſire, purſuant to what was obſerved in all the preceding Treaties, and the Offers made on our part; they inſert theſe Words, *Allies who are amongſt us in War*: Which would exclude the Biſhop of *Strasburg*, and all the other Princes, who, during the Negotiations of Peace and Courſe of the War, would, perhaps, to put an end thereto, ſecond his Maſteſty's good Intentions. We hope Gentlemen, that the Mediators, who are convinced of the Juſtice of our Demands, will ſpeedily make our Parties acquieſce therein; but they will have apparently much more Trouble in obliging them to hearken to Reaſon, as to the number of the Full Powers: For altho' the Catholicks and Proteſtants are all now content with one and the ſame Form; ſo that there is no neceſſity of bringing more than

one Power from your Majesty ; nevertheless, the Confederates always obstinately insist to have five Powers, comprehending all those Parties that are in War against *France*, viz. one to treat with the Ambassadors of the Emperor, the second for *Spain*, the third for *Denmark*, the fourth for the States-General of the united Provinces, and the fifth for the Elector of *Brandenburg* ; in every one whereof the same Clause, which relates to the Allies of those Powers, whom they affirm to be the principal, may be inserted.

We have already inform'd your Majesty of the Inconveniencies we met with, in inducing you to send a Power for the Ambassadors of the Elector of *Brandenburg*, and we hope to know your Majesty's Sentiments thereupon, at this instant : But not having receiv'd any of your Dispatches, nor those of Monsieur de *Pompe* ne ; we thought ourselves oblig'd to take such Resolutions as were most advantageous for your Service. And, forasmuch as the same Consequences which we had reason to apprehend, with respect to many other Princes, particularly the Duke of *Lorraine*, now cease, by the Assurances the Mediators have given us, that they will be content with those five full Powers, for all, who are at present in War against *France* ; there are only left us, Sire, weak Reasons to deny the Confederates the five Powers they demand ; and on the contrary, very strong ones to acquiesce therein : For *first*, the Obstinacy with which the Ambassadors of the States-General demand separate Powers, is a Mark of the desire they have to treat separately : *Secondly*, the Sickness of the Elector of *Brandenburg*, which even puts those, who are engaged in his Interests, in pain for his Life ; the Advantages obtain'd by the King of *Sweden* over the King of *Denmark*, the Peace of *Poland*, and more especially the pro-

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ſperous State of your Maſteſty's Affairs, ought to induce that Prince, as well as the States General, to wiſh for a ſpeedy Accommodation, that he may not leave his Son (if it ſhould happen by his Default) involved in a too violent War. That which confirms us farther, that it may ſo fall out, (as we have juſt now intimated, as well upon Account of the Demand of Separate Powers, which that Prince and the States General continue to make to us) is, that we have been inform'd, That the Ambaſſadors of the Emperor and of the King of *Spain*, have always been of a contrary Opinion, and maintain that they ought to be content with a ſingle Power. Thus we believe, that after having taken away, by our Denial, all Suſpicions which our Enemies might conceive, upon Account of that Multiplication of Powers, if we had offer'd it, it conduces to your Maſteſty's Service, not to reje& any longer the Means which they themſelves put into our hands of attaining to ſeparate Treaties: And for theſe Reaſons, we are reſolv'd to yield thereto, ſo ſoon as the Form of the Full Powers ſhall be entirely agreed on; unleſs the Letters which we expect after to morrow from your Maſteſty, order us to the contrary. We are with a profound Reſpect,

Sire, &c.

LETTER

L E T T E R

*From the Ambassadors to Monsieur
de Pomponne.*

Dated *January 22. 1677.*

S I R,

WE impute the Delay of our Letters only to the bad Weather, and hope we shall know, after to morrow, the King's Intentions upon the Number of the Full Powers; if not, we shall fix on the Resolution, whereof we shall inform His Majesty, which is what appears to us at present the most advantageous for his Service.

The Ambassador of *Denmark*, being not inclin'd to yield to the common Form of the Full Powers, in *French* and *Latin*, because he said that one proceeded from us, and the other from the *Swedes*, (tho' both ought to be look'd upon as the Work of the Mediators, to which all the Parties have consented) has drawn up a Form for himself, which, tho' it differs not in Substance from ours, and has no other Faults, with regard to us, than the Omission of the Character of Most Christian, which he has not added to that of King of *France*, which you know, Sir, he unjustly pretends, belongs to the King his Master: Nevertheless, that Form is different in the Preamble of the common Draught, and gives the *Swedes* more occasion to complain than us; because the Titles which they claim as due to the King their Master, are not there inserted. We shall endeavour to put an end to the rest of the Difficulties, with all convenient speed; and it will be easily done

done, if our Allies are diſpoſed to take the common Expedient, that has been always put in Practice, and which is, That every Prince ſhould mention in his Powers, the Titles he lays claim to, without impoſing on the reſt the Neceſſity of inserting them all at length in their Powers; but only the Principal, as in the Power of *Denmark* for *Sweden*, that of the King of *Sweden* only, which ought to comprehend the other Titles; and in that of *Sweden* for *Denmark*, that of the King of *Denmark* only; to which may be annex'd, an Act of the Mediators, that the Titles assumed or omitted in the Powers, cannot be hurtful or prejudicial.

Monsieur *Hyde* came back hither yesterday from the *Hague*, in Quality of a Fourth Ambassador of *England* for a Peace: This caus'd us to fear, lest my Lord *Berkley* should be recall'd; but we heard just now, that the latter might possibly come to supply the Place of Sir *Lionel Jenkins*, whom the King of *England* designs to ſucceed the Archbishop of *Canterbury*, who cannot recover of the Diſtemper which has obliged him to keep his Bed.

Count *Kinsky*, has not yet notified his Arrival to us, and we ſhall not give him a Viſit, till he conſents that we ſhall have the neceſſary Security for the maintaining of our Rank; which is, a Declaration of the Mediators, that he has not notified his Arrival to any other Ambassador beſides them; without which, we ſhall fall into Inconveniencies that would be prejudicial to our Character. We are moſt really Sir, entirely at your Service.

LETTER

LETTER

*From the Ambassadors to Monsieur
de Pomponne.*

Dated January 23. 1677.

SIR,

THE Advice we just now receiv'd, that the Post is not yet set out, gives us time to add one Word to our Letter of Yesterday, to inform you that there remains no farther Difficulty upon the Full Powers: But, forasmuch as we are inform'd, that those which the Emperor's Ambassador is to produce speedily, are very injurious to *France*; we find ourselves much perplex'd about it: For by the Writing which we sign'd, every thing that shall be treated of, during the time we have taken to procure new Powers, ought to be valid, by virtue of the former, which were communicated; so that we shall treat upon a Power, the meer Reading whereof we can't bear, without expressing our Resentment. An Expedient offers it self to us, to get off of this Difficulty; which is, to give the Mediators to understand, That if, contrary to our Opinion, there should be, as we are inform'd, some Expression in the Powers, which are to be communicated, that may injure the King's Honour; it would be a piece of Prudence in them, not to shew them to us, since we should not be able to forbear expressing our just Resentment: But that in order to facilitate the Negotiation, we would consent to treat with the Ambassadors of the Emperor, and others, upon a Certificate, which the said Mediators should give us, That the said Ambassadors are continued in due Form, to treat
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and conclude; and inſtead of putting in the Deed to be ſign'd by all the Ambaſſadors, that every thing which ſhall be negotiated in waiting for the new Full Powers, ſhall be valid by virtue of the former; we would cauſe it to be inſerted, the ſame ſhall be valid, by virtue of the ſaid Writing, and the new Full Powers which ſhall have for that purpoſe a retro-actiue Effect, as if they had been produced at this inſtant.

The Ambaſſadors of *Brandenburg*, have not yet paid their Viſits, ſo that we ſhall be in a Condition, by receiving his Maſteſty's laſt Diſpatch, to accept the Propoſal of which *Monſieur Olivenkrants* made an Overture to one of us, namely, to receive the Viſit of *Monſieur Somnitz* alone: But *Sir Lionel Jenkins*, to whom we ſpoke of it, told us, That *Monſieur Somnitz*, is not of that Opinion, and does not intend to ſeparate himſelf from his Colleague: We believe they will ſo much the rather perſiſt in their Demands to be treated equally, becauſe they have inform'd us, that the Ambaſſador of the Emperor deſigns to give all of them the Title of Excellency, and the Precedency. We are, &c.

L E T T E R

From the Ambaſſadors to the King.

Dated *January 26. 1677.*

S I R E,

WE wait for your Maſteſty's Orders, about the Demand of the Elector of *Brandenburg* for a ſeparate Power; and forasmuch as by the Letter wherewith you honoured us, of the 14th inſtant, you gave us to underſtand, that
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your Intention is not, that we should condescend so far ; we did not think we ought to do it, tho' we had good Reasons enough for it, as we explain'd to your Majesty, in our last Dispatch. We have already us'd all our Diligence to oblige the Allies, to content themselves with Two Powers, the one for the Catholicks, and the other for the Protestants ; or, at most, with Four, to which your Majesty order'd us to consent ; but we find the Allies still very obstinate, in demanding Five. Monsieur *Beverning* has also been with Monsieur *Olivenkranz*, to tell him, that the Refusal of a Power, in favour of the Elector of *Brandenburg*, would detain us a great deal longer time, than any other Preliminary Difficulty ; and the rather, because Count *Kinsky* does not desire it any more than we ; urging, that all the Electors and Princes of *Germany* ought not to act here, but under the Direction of the Emperor ; which the Elector of *Brandenburg* has an Interest to oppose, as they have to support the Claim he has to treat separately, and independently from the Emperor. Monsieur *Beverning* has not fail'd to make it appear, That he has espous'd the Interest of supporting, upon that Occasion, the Princes of the Empire against the Emperor. These Arguments have already induced the Allies to consent to that Fifth full Power, provided we would also promise to do it on our part, for which they earnestly press us ; and since your Majesty permits us to embrace that of all the Parties, which we shall judge the most speedy, and the most capable of terminating all the Difficulties ; we shall endeavour to facilitate that Affair, when we shall find therein the necessary Securities, to save us harmless from the Consequences, which may ensue upon the Elector of *Brandenburg's* Demand. We are with a profound Respect, Sire, &c.

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LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur
de Pomponne.

Dated January 26. 1677.

S I R,

WE believe you are inform'd that the Secretary of Monſieur de Feuquiere has been arreſted at *Amſterdam*, and carried Priſoner to the *Hague*. Monſieur *Liyot*, who told us this News yeſterday, aſſur'd us, at the ſame time, that he had in his cuſtody the Papers of that Secretary; ſo that they were not taken with him. For aſmuch as we know not, Sir, upon what Security the *Sieur la Viſſeur* was at *Amſterdam*; and as we do not know whether he was there or not; neither do we know how to aſt upon this Occaſion, till you do us the Honour to ſend us the King's Pleaſure thereupon.

Sir, My Lord *Berkley* told one of us yeſterday, that Sir *William Temple*, who is ſtill at the *Hague*, has ſent word to the King their Maſter, that we have begun to treat upon a ſeparate Peace with *Holland*; and that the Affair was in a good Forwardneſs. Whereupon, the King of *Great-Britain* wrote to the Mediator, that he ſent them hither, to endeavour to make the Parties agree to a General Peace; that if Mention was made of a Particular one, it was done without his Knowledge or Participation; but that he did not deſign to hinder thoſe, who are deſirous to come to an Accommodation, to do it as they ſhould think fit: Whereupon, my Lord *Berkley* ſaid, he had propos'd to Sir *Lionel Jenkins*, to write to the King their Maſter,

ster, That hitherto they had only discover'd in us a very great Desire of making a General Peace; and if, at last, we should be oblig'd to conclude a Particular one, Application ought only to be made for that purpose, to the House of *Austria*; which so plainly discovers their Aversion to Peace, that it is requisite, that those who are not for it, or cannot any longer bear the Weight of the War, should make their Treaty separately; but that Sir *Lionel Jenkins* would not consent to the writing of that Letter. Sir, We thought ourselves oblig'd to acquaint you with the above-mention'd.

LETTER

From the King to the Ambassadors.

Dated January 28. 1677..

Cousin, Messieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*; your Dispatch of the 12th instant, has given me a very exact Account of the Confusion that Count *Kinsky* the Emperor's Ambassador has made in the Order of notifying his Arrival, and receiving and returning the Visits. 'Tis not to be doubted, but his Design was after this manner to raise Contests, between you and the two other Ambassadors, and even those of *Sweden*: But forasmuch as I cannot admit of that Equality, according to which he would regulate the Return of his Visits, by Visiting first, those by whom he was first visited; I approve of the manner, in which you answer'd him, touching that Affair, by the Mediators, and that he may be certified, that you would not only refuse to allow of that

that double Notification, which he propos'd to make; but that you would not receive his Viſit, if he viſited any other Ambaſſador, beſides the Mediators, before you. Whether he may underſtand, that you, in this manner, ſupport the Rank, which is juſtly due to you, or whether he perceives that the Miniſters of my Enemies, by favouring themſelves reſpectively, are not willing to have any Correſpondence with you; it cannot but have a good Effect, when it is known that you maintain yourſelves, in the Preeminence which is due to your Character; and that you cannot either viſit or receive Viſits, from thoſe who have no Regard to it. This Example alſo, in the Reaſon of an Ambaſſador of the Emperor, will ſerve for a Rule to all the others, who ſhall arrive in the Aſſembly, whether they treat you after the manner they ought, or whether they forbear it.

I have ſeen by your Letters, and the Advice has been confirmed to me from *Germany*, That the Elector of *Brandenburg* has obtain'd a Writing from the Emperor, importing, that the Second and Third of his Ambaſſadors ſhould receive of the Imperial Miniſters, the ſame Honours of Precedency and Excellency: But forasmuch as I am not oblig'd to follow the Rules of *Vienna*, I will not alter the Cuſtom which my Ambaſſadors have hitherto obſerved with thoſe Electors: They have only allow'd the Honour of the Ambaſſy to him, who was the Chief of them; my Intention is, that you ſhould act thus, and that you ſhould follow the Examples, which have been practis'd in that Caſe, upon ſeveral Occaſions, even in the Diet of the Election at *Frankfort*.

The Paſſport I have granted for the Emperor's Ambaſſadors, extends not only to their Perſons, but even to their Equipages; ſo that you may remove

remove the Scruple they have rais'd about the Goods of the Marquis *de los Balbases*, tho' they do not follow the same Road, through which they pass to the Assembly.

By Advices which I have from *England*, I am inform'd, that Sir *William Temple* has discover'd the Sentiments of the Prince of *Orange*, and the States-General, in his Journey from the *Hague*: He found in that Prince, and in Pensionary *Eagel*, an earnest Desire, and at the same time a great Necessity to make Peace; but he did not find them less intent on securing a *Spanish* Country, which might serve as a Barrier between *France* and *Holland*. Forasmuch as 'tis apparent, that in this Point, they have much less Regard to the Interest of this Crown than their own; it cannot be doubted, but they will always make it one of the first Articles of the Conditions, upon which they would make Peace: But, because in their present Sentiments, to promote it, after Monsieur *Beverning* has explain'd himself so often, that he would shortly enter upon Business with you, it may easily happen, that he will bring you Proposals, almost in that sense, in which Mention was made to Sir *William Temple*; I think it important, to signify to you my Intentions on that Affair, so far as that you may be in a Capacity to return an Answer thereto.

In case then, that Monsieur *Beverning* makes you some Overture of a Treaty, and annexes that Condition thereto, without which the States-General will scarce be induced to make Peace; my Opinion is, not that you should instantly give a Check thereto by a flat Denial, or by too many Difficulties: I desire on the contrary, you would declare to him, that my Intention being sincere, to re-establish my former Amity with the States-General, and secure their Tranquillity;

I would not recede from Propoſals which may contribute thereto; but having been attack'd firſt by *Spain*, I was oblig'd to repel the War, which they were about to bring into my Dominions: Now, ſince no Conqueſts can be founded upon a juſter Title, than thoſe I have already made, or may hereafter gain over that Crown; and ſeeing I am inclin'd nevertheleſs to contribute to the Tranquillity of *Holland*, and to ſecure a Frontier for *Spain*; I ought alſo to provide for the Safety and Conveniency of my own Frontiers. And, if in the Conqueſts I have made during this War, or in thoſe which I may hereafter gain, there ſhould be any Places which too much obſtruſt that Barrier, for which the States-General expreſs ſo great a Deſire, I will not be backward for the Advantage of Peace, in preſerving what may be convenient for my Dominions, to receive the Recompence elſewhere, either in *Catalonia*, or in *Sicily*, or in the Duchy of *Milan*, or in other States which the Catholick King is poſſeſs'd of in *Italy*, or even in thoſe which are ſubject to him in the *Indies*. The States-General will be made ſenſible, by this means, that I do not inſiſt ſo much as they apprehend, on the Conqueſt of *Flanders*, ſince I am very willing to take an Equivalent for my Conqueſts elſewhere; neither can they fairly find fault, that the Fortune of Arms having been favourable to me, in a War which *Spain* declared againſt me, that Crown ſhould make me amends, with ſome one of their Territories, for ſo great Charges they have put me to, and ſo much of my Subjects Blood which they have oblig'd me to ſpill.

You may eaſily judge, that my Intention, in this Answer, is to cure the *Hollanders* of the Apprehenſion, with which their own Intereſt inſpires them, touching the Loſs of *Flanders*, and
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to make it appear to them, at the same time, That it is but reasonable in a War, so just as that which I am carrying on against *Spain*, that I should make good use, by an Equivalent, of the Advantages my Arms have gain'd, or which they may farther obtain. By this means, being deliver'd from the chief Fear they are under, they will have Interest left to dispute for the Conditions of *Spain*, when they shall see the Security they desire, as to a Barrier for the Low-Countries. For the rest, I pray God to take you my Cousin, into his Holy and Worthy Care, and you Messieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Arvaux*, into his Sacred Protection.

Written at *St. Germain en Laye*, the 28th of *January*, 1677.

L E T T E R

From Monsieur de Pomponne to the Ambassadors.

Dated *January* 28. 1677.

Gentlemen,

SINCE the writing of His Majesty's Dispatch, I receiv'd your Pacquet of the 15th instant. Forasmuch as I have not time to return an Answer, neither to the Dispatch you sent to His Majesty, nor to the particular Letter you were pleas'd to write to me; I shall only tell you, that I observe, with a great deal of Pleasure, that the Conduct you have made appear, has almost brought Monsieur *Kinsky* to the Terms you desire; in that case, you will reap Advantage from the Difficulty which he rais'd among you about the Visit, and they will serve only better to establish the

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the Rank which is due to you. I intend to let you know by the Poſt, which ſets out after to-morrow, his Maſteſty's Intentions as to your Diſpatch of the 15th; and, Gentlemen, I intreat you, in the mean time, to believe, that I am, with all manner of Sincerity, entirely devoted to your Service.

L E T T E R

From the Ambaſſadors to the King.

Dated January 29. 1677.

S I R E,

ALL the Arguments we have been able to make uſe of, in order to oblige the Allies to content themſelves either with a ſingle Full Power from your Maſteſty, or with Two; namely, one for the Catholick Princes, and another for the Proteſtants; and laſtly, Four having not been able to vanquiſh their Obſtinacy, in inſiſting upon a fifth for the Elector of Brandenburg; and Monſieur Beverning having declared to Monſieur Ollivenkrants, that he muſt not hope to enter upon a Negotiation, till that Elector was diſtinguiſh'd from the others by a ſeparate Power, as he demanded. Moreover, I the Mareſchal d'Eſtrades, being informed, from good hands, that the ſaid Sieur Beverning has poſitive Orders not to recede from that Demand; we believ'd we ought not to delay any longer, the giving the States-General Satisfaction as to this Point: Firſt, becauſe Your Maſteſty's Diſpatches of the two laſt Poſts, permit us, and even enjoin us to make uſe of the Expedient, which we ſhould judge moſt proper, in order ſpeedily to get clear of theſe Preliminary Difficulties; ſecondly, becauſe the Promise

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which Monsieur *Beverning* offers to make us, That if any of the Princes whose Ambassadors have not yet appear'd in this Assembly, make new Instances for other Separate Powers, the States-General should not back them, nor cease to continue the Negotiation with us; leaves us no more room to apprehend the Consequences, which we were before apprehensive of, as to the other Princes of Germany, and especially the Duke of Lorrain, for whom the States-General mentioning his Name, declare they will not claim any: Thirdly, we are inform'd from several Hands, and particularly by the Ambassadors of Sweden, That the Design which Count *Kinsky* form'd, to have the Direction of all the Interests of the Allies, is the Cause of the Obstinacy, with which the said Sieur *Beverning* demands the separate Powers, for his Master, and for the Elector of Brandenburg, whose Interests are no less at the Heart of the Prince of Orange, than his own; and therefore this Separation of Powers may be a means to forward the separate Treaties. In the fourth Place, because Monsieur *Courtin* wrote to us, That they are greatly alarm'd in England about a Report which is current there, concerning a private Treaty, made between France and the States-General, which thing cannot be more capable to keep back the Displeasure of the Parliament, than to render it effectual; and for that end, it extremely comports with the King's Service, to omit no means for putting an end to all the Difficulties, which hinder us from entering into a Conference with Monsieur *Beverning*. These Arguments, therefore, obliged us all Three, with one accord, to comply with the pressing Instances, which the Ambassadors of Sweden made us, to grant a fifth Power to Monsieur *Olivetkrantz*, who went yesterday, at our Request, to inform Monsieur *Bever-*

Beverning, That we were willing to make this farther Step, in order to ſatisfy him; and he brought back Word to one of us, That that Miniſter told him, that he would not only viſit us ſo ſoon as the Writing ſhould be ſign'd, in order to make good the Promiſe he had given us on his part, by *Monſieur Olivenkrants*, (who ſpoke to us) and that he would even conſent that the Mediators ſhould make us the ſame forthwith; but alſo that incontinently after the ſigning of that Writing, he would give in his Propoſals to the Mediators, in a Letter which he ſhould write to them for that purpoſe; and declared that then he would have as many Conferences directly with us, as we ſhould judge proper for the promoting of Peace.

Monſieur Olivenkrants alſo inform'd us, that having told the ſaid *Sieur Beverning*, that a Rumour was ſpread abroad in *England*, that an Accommodation was already in a great Forwardneſs, between *France*, *Sweden*, and the *States-General*; and that it was only incumbent upon him to make it ſhortly true; *Monſieur Beverning* made Answer, That it could be imputed to nothing but the ill-grounded Fears of *Count Kinsky*, and *Don Pedro Ronquillo*: That the Aim the former had to have all the Interests of the Allies directed by him, and treated jointly together, had occaſioned *Monſieur Beverning*, to tell them both, that it did not agree with the Orders he had from his Maſters, which were to treat ſeparately and independently; nevertheless, without abandoning their Allies: That this had drawn upon him the Reproach of failing in the Engagements of their Alliance, which does not permit one of the Confederates to treat, but in conjunction with the others; and that he made Answer, That when the *States-General* had obtained reaſonable Con-

ditions for their Allies, they believ'd they had discharged their Obligation, and ought not, without a Cause, to maintain a perpetual War with him: That it was return'd to him for Answer, That in that Case, his Treary would be soon concluded, and he would, in a short time, be without Employment: That he told them smiling, he should then have that of a Mediator, and perhaps would forward their Affairs more than any other Person. Lastly, that all this Discourse gave occasion to Count *Kinsky*, and Don *Pedro Ronquillo*, to write into *England*, that the Accommodation was almost as good as finish'd.

The said Monsieur *Beverning* likewise told Monsieur *Oliwenkrants*, that he was inform'd, That Sir *William Temple* had complained to the Prince of *Orange*, and Monsieur *Fagel*, of the too great Earnestness he the said *Beverning* had always expressed for the promoting of the Peace; which gave occasion to the Allies to believe, that he design'd to treat without them: He also added, that the Prince of *Orange* was no less desirous of it than he; but it was very much doubted, whether your Majesty were inclined thereto, considering the great Preparations you are making to attack the Places which would be serviceable in the Accommodations that might be made in order to fix the Barrier, which the States-General desire between *France* and them, and, without which, they cannot hearken to a Peace. Monsieur *Oliwenkrants* made Answer, That this ought to induce them to offer Proposals to us, and that as it is the part of a Wise Government to have Dispositions for Peace, even when Affairs are in a prosperous State, he doubted not, but Your Majesty would favourably receive such reasonable Proposals, as should be made to You. The Conclusion of their Dis-

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course was, that the Week, into which we were juſt entring, ſhould not paſs, but he the ſaid *Beverning* would therein hold Conferences directly with us.

We will not fail, (according to the Order Your Maſteſty has given us, by *Montieur de Pomponne*) to make uſe of the *Sieur des Carriers*, to act with the ſaid *Montſieur Beverning*, in Concerns which we cannot manage ourſelves. In the mean time, forasimuch as the Prince of *Orange* already knows all the Advantages he may hope for from Your Maſteſty, both for himſelf and the States-General, in a ſeparate Accommodation: And as it alſo appears to us, that *Montſieur Beverning* is inform'd thereof; and that a ſtop was put to this Affair, (according to the Account of it, I the Mareſchal d'Eſtrades formerly gave Your Maſteſty) only becauſe the Prince of *Orange* is deſirous that you would entrust him with the Conditions, upon which you will treat with *Spain*; and you require on the contrary, with a great deal of Reaſon, That that Prince or the States, ſhould make their Propoſals, both as to what relates to them in particular, and as to that which they affirm to be neceſſary for their Safety: We do not apprehend in keeping cloſe (as we ought to do) to the Obſervation of your Orders, how we can either ſet on Foot ourſelves, or cauſe any Overture to be made to *Montſieur Beverning*, till he has offer'd us ſome Propoſal; but we will make good uſe, without loſing a Moment of Time, of all Opportunities which appear proper to us, to forward the Affairs Your Maſteſty has entrusted us with. We are, with a profound Reſpect, Sire, &c.

LETTER

*From the Ambassadors to Monsieur
de Pomponne.*

Dated January 29. 1677.

S I R,

WE have receiv'd the Letter, which you did us the Honour to write to us the 20th instant, to conform ourselves to the Conditions of the Secret, which my Lord *Berkley* requir'd of Monsieur d'*Avaux*, when he imparted it to him, upon which the King has order'd us to signify to the said Lord, his particular Good-liking of it. We shall make use of the same Monsieur d'*Avaux*, to give him to understand, how kindly his Majesty took this new Mark of his Affection to his Service, and to insinuate to him, at the same time, every thing that is capable of moving and exciting him, by the Esteem the King has for his Person, to continue his Intimacy with us, to the end that we may make Advantage of it, for his Majesty's Service.

Sir, the King has very well judg'd, that the Letter which Sir *William Temple* and Sir *Lionel Jenkins* wrote to the King of *England*, without the knowledge of my Lord *Berkley*, to hinder the States General from treating separately, is contrary to the Intentions of their Master: For this is even verify'd by the Answer which the King of *England* sent hither to his Ambassadors, to that Letter, and others which Sir *William Temple* continu'd to write to him from the *Hague*, on the same Subject: That he was not concern'd at the States General being about to treat separately with *France*, as we have already

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already given an Account to your Maſteſty, by our Diſpatch of the laſt Poſt, upon the new Truſt, which my Lord *Berkley*, by a continuance of his Affection and Zeal for the King's Service, had reſoſed in *Monsieur D'Avaux*: Of which he has ſo much the leſs Reaſon to doubt, in regard that *Monsieur Courtin*, who never fail'd to inform the King thereof, confirms it to us by his Letter, which we receiv'd the Day before yeſterday; ſignifying to us, that he had it from the King of England's own Mouth, who likewiſe ſhew'd him in private, what *Sir William Temple* continued to write to him from the *Hague*.

This gives us grounds to hope, That what the King of England has notify'd thereupon, to his Ambaſſadors, may, perhaps, oblige *Sir William Temple* and *Sir Lionel Jenkins*, to act with leſs Partiality for the future. We have given an Account to his Maſteſty, by our former, that we will not viſit Count *Kinsky*, and of the Reaſons for which we cannot do it: We perceive more and more, that his Difficulty of the firſt and ſecond Viſit was a Snare to catch us in; and we judge it ſo much the rather, becauſe, altho' the Ambaſſador of Sweden lodges before the Gate of *Monſieur Kinsky*, yet he did not paſs till after the Ambaſſador of Denmark.

We are very glad, Sir, thro' the Concern we have for your Health, that your Indiſpoſition has been of a ſhort Continuance: Do us (if you pleaſe) the Honour to believe and be perſuaded, that we are moſt really, Sir, entirely devoted to your Service.

LETTER

*From Monsieur de Pomponne to the
Ambassadors.*

Dated January 30. 1677.

Gentlemen,

YOUR Dispatch of the 15th instant, induces his Majesty to believe, that you have receiv'd Count Kinsky's Visit, in the Rank which is due to you; and that the Difficulty which that Minister started, only serv'd to promote the Design he had, to confound you with all the Ambassadors, who ought only to follow you: His Majesty could not observe, without having a particular Kindness for my Lord Berkley, the manner so just and so constant at the same time, with which he explain'd himself upon the Precedency which is due to your Character, and upon the Wrong the Emperor's Ambassador did in calling it into Question: His Majesty also highly approves that you have not left that Negotiation to Sir Lionel Jenkins, in such a manner, as that the greatest part of it is incumbent upon him.

Gentlemen, I send you the New Passport, which you desir'd for Monsieur Voeller: I intreat you to believe, that I am entirely at your Service.

LETTER

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to the King.

Dated February 2. 1677.

S I R E,

WE believe, we may aſſure your Maieſty, That all the Preliminary Difficulties are at length determin'd; and we hope, that by the next Poſt, we ſhall have the Honour to acquaint you with the Performance of Monsieur *Beverning's* Promiſes. The Mediators came to us to declare on his part, that the States General would be ſatisfy'd, provided, we would conſent to grant Five Powers; and, at the ſame time, they gave us the Promiſe of Monsieur *Beverning* and the Ambaſſador of *Denmark*, That tho' even any other Prince, either Eleſtor, or namely the Duke of *Lorrain*, ſhould deſire to have a Separate Power, yet they would make no Inſtances for them to that End: And if the Quality of the Allies oblig'd them to declare, That they would cauſe that Satisfaction to be given 'em, it would be a Buſineſs which they would not countenance; and they would not only conſent, they ſhould be immediately denied, and that no Regard ſhould be had to their Inſtances; but alſo would intreat the Mediators to aſſure us, on their part, that this ſhould not ſtop the Courſe of the Negotiation one Moment: That they would begin the next day after we had ſign'd the Five Forms of the Powers, and the obligatory Deeds: That for their parts, (we ſtill mean *Denmark* and the States) they could find no Fault with either of thoſe two Deeds, and they were ready to ſign them; that they were to meet

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again tomorrow, being the day of this Dispatch, to consult with their Allies, whether there are any Difficulties therein; and forasmuch as we believe the Ambassadors of *Brandenburg*, who follow the Motions of those of *Holland*, will find none; and whereas Count *Kinsky* has explain'd himself, that he offer'd to sign those two Acts, we doubt not, but the whole Affair will be terminated this very Day. We do not tell your Majesty every thing Monsieur *Beverning* added, to make appear to us the Interest we have to give the Elector of *Brandenburg* a Separate Power; for since we have already given you an Account in two or three Letters, we judge it will be a needless and irksom Repetition to your Majesty.

The Ambassadors of *Sweden* are the most apt to start Difficulties; they often stop at very considerable things; and all that we can do, is to induce them by our Arguments and Example, not to give our Enemies the Pretences they so industriously seek for, to put off the Peace, and lay the Blame upon us.

'Twas with this View, Sire, and in that of obeying your Majesty's Injunctions, that in order to put an End to all this, we went yesterday to offer the Mediators, to carry to them tomorrow Morning, being *Wednesday*, the Forms and the Five Obligatory Deeds, sign'd by us, to make an Exchange of them for those which shall be deliver'd to them, by the adverse Parties. We believe, that the Business will be perform'd after this manner, or that it will not be deferr'd, at most, above a day; after which, we have no reason to doubt, but we shall have Proposals from Monsieur *Beverning*, as he has so often promised, and so positively, even by the Mediators: And forasmuch as we shall visit one another at our own Houses, as he has assured us by Monsieur *Olivierants*, who is a
very

very free and poſitive Man; we hope, in the Conferences, to make an End of more Affairs in one Day, than we ſhould do in a Month, with the Mediators, who, we perceive, are not willing to forward the Negotiation; but we think it will be a piece of Prudence in us, to conceal our Diſcovery of it, and to forbear making any Complaint of 'em, which may come to their Ears.

The Mediators have alſo drawn up a Writing, which much more concerns the Ambaſſadors of Sweden and Denmark than us; and whereby they declare, that the Titles aſſumed or omitted, cannot be hurtful or prejudicial to the Parties. The Swedes raiſe ſome Difficulty upon two or three Words in that Writing; but we believe they will eaſily comply, and that the ſame will not ſtop our Proceedings.

The Ambaſſadors of the States, and thoſe of their Allies, have made choice of a Chamber which goes into the Town-Houſe, to hold private Conferences among themſelves: Monſieur Beverning, to whom we cauſ'd a Complaint to be made, that this was done without the Knowledge of the Mediators, and without giving us Notice of it; plainly ſignified to us, that in that reſpect, he had no other Deſign than to pitch upon a third Place, to meet in, as not being willing to go to the Houſe of the Emperor's Ambaſſador, who was deſirous that the Meeting ſhould be always there; and by that means have a kind of Influence over all the Ambaſſadors. Monſieur Beverning offer'd us, at the ſame time, that if we would have a Chamber in the Town-Houſe, for our private Conferences, we might chuſe ſuch a one as we ſhould think fit; and even till we went to ſee it, he forbore, both him and his Allies, from meeting in that which they had taken for themſelves; ſo that, in that reſpect, we had all man-

ner of Satisfaction; and we shall hire a Chamber only for Form-sake, and in case of Need; for our Allies stand very much upon Punctilioes; and we believe they will not agree with us, so easily, altho' they ought to do it, with much more reason, than the Allies, among whom are *Spain* and *Denmark*, who are agreed on all things together.

As to the General Conferences, we do not believe, Sir; that any should be held; neither does it comport with our Interest or our Opinion; neither is it that of Monsieur *Beverning*; tho' Sir *William Temple* told us, they had receiv'd positive Orders from the King their Master, above a Month ago, to propose the holding of publick Conferences: Nevertheless, we agreed, that it was a Thing scarce practicable, considering the great Number of their Allies, and the Straitness of the Place where they were to meet.

Mons^r *Hyde* has notified his Arrival to us: We went to visit him all Three together with Ceremony; and we receiv'd him likewise all three together, at the House of me the Mares^c *d' Estrades*, according to your Majesty's Orders. He sent to know, whether we were desirous, that he should notify his Arrival to us, or whether we thought fit, since he was only to reside here for a few Days, he should come along with his Colleague in the first Visit, they were to make us; and we notified to him, that in that, he might use his own Discretion; and what suited most with his Convenience, would be most agreeable to us. He did not meet with the same easiness in the Temper of the other Ambassadors; And forasmuch as he sent to us afterwards, to know whether we would receive him separately, or jointly; and we declar'd we would receive him all together; he thought it was incumbent on him, to express in his

his Compliment, that he and his Collegues were much obliged to us, upon Account, that we were willing to leave it to his Choice, either to perform all the first Ceremonies of the Embassy, or to exempt himself from them: And being to thank us, as well for the Respect we shew to the King his Master in his Person, he had determined, in order to do us more Honour, to give us every one a Visit; but if contrary to his own Desire, he should render us less than the Ambassadors of Sweden and others, whom he intended to visit separately, he believ'd he should not do amiss in obeying our Orders.

Since the last Post, we have been informed more particularly of the Hardship put upon the Person of the *Sieur la Vasseur*, and the Sealing of his Portmantle, which is with the Chest of Monsieur *Lilienrooth*. We also hear, that Monsieur *Silverskroon* did not act in this Matter, as he ought to have done; since instead of affirming, that all the Goods which are in the House, belong to Monsieur *Lilienrooth*; he sent him Word, that he advis'd him to stay; that the Portmantle did not belong to him; and we may even judge, that the said *Silverskroon* has already declared it to the Officers, who were in his House. This oblig'd us to speak of it first to the Mediators, and afterward to the Ambassadors of Sweden, whom we made sensible of what Importance it would be to them, if your Majesty saw that they abandon'd a Man, who only went in their Service. We also advis'd Monsieur *Descarrieres* to go and speak of it to Monsieur *Beverning*: He was there, and gave us the Memorial hereto annexed, to add to our Letter. We are, with a profound Respect,

S I R E, &c.

LETTER

LETTER

From the Ambassadors to Monsieur de Pomponne.

Dated February 2. 1677.

S. I. R,

WE have nothing to add to the King's Letter; and 'tis only to assure you of the Continuation of our most humble Services, that we give ourselves the Honour of Writing to you. We are, Sir, entirely at your Service.

LETTER

From the King to the Ambassadors.

Dated February 4. 1677.

Cousin, Messieurs Colbert and Count d'Avaux; the Letter you wrote to me of the 19th inst. would have shewn me the Difficulties, which the Ministers of the Emperor, and the Catholick King, still raise about the Full Powers; if your Dispatch of the 22^d had not informed me, that they were at last agreed upon the Writing which was drawn up by the Mediators. They would have too manifestly discover'd, how great their Affectation was, to prolong the Preliminaries of the Peace; if instead of promising to procure by a certain time Full Powers, such as were drawn up by the Mediators, they had contented themselves only, with promising their Diligence to obtain them of their Masters. At this time, when they are engaged upon that Condition, and
when

when all the Miniſters, who are at *Nimègues*, are agreed, nothing can hinder the Negotiation from commencing. You have obſerv'd, even of yourſelves, how prejudicial the Manner of comprizing my Allies, under the Term of thoſe that are at preſent in War, would be to the Princes, who are at this time in my Intereſt; ſuch as the Biſhop of *Strasburg* (who cannot be ſaid to be in Arms, tho' he is ſtrictly united to me) and to others, that might be ſo hereafter; Therefore, I doubt not, but you have cauſ'd to be comprehended indefinitely all my Allies or Adherents, which are Terms General and Uſual in Matters of this Nature, and which I am willing to make Uſe of, with Regard to my Enemies.

As to the Demand they have made you, for Five Full Powers, you have already been informed, for what Reaſons I did not think they ought to be extended beyond Crown'd Heads, and the States General; and of what Conſequence it would be, that all the Princes of *Germany* would deſire particular ones, after the Example of the Elector of *Brandenburg*. I perſiſt in that Opinion, and think you ought, as far as lies in your Power, to exclude the Pretenſion of that Elector: If, nevertheless, you find too great Oppoſition to ſurmount that Difficulty, and which you think may be capable of retarding the Negotiation too long; I permit you to agree to the Conditions, which have been propos'd on the Part of the Mediators; that is to ſay, under a poſitive Engagement on their ſide, that the Full Power granted to the Elector of *Brandenburg*, ſhall not be a Precedent for any Prince; and that more than Five ſhall not be claim'd or granted for any Party concern'd in War. It will be neceſſary, that on this Account, you take very good Security, and even in Writing; and you may farther rely upon the
Promise

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Promise given you by the Mediators, of the Engagement of the Ministers of the Emperor, *Spain, Denmark,* and the States, that this Example of the Elector of *Brandenburg* shall not be a Precedent for any other. The Difficulty which (as you observed to me) might be rais'd by the Ambassadors of *Sweden*, touching the Full Power, which was drawn up by the Ambassadors of *Denmark*, seems to be easily remov'd, according to the Expedient in the Declaration of the Mediators, That the Titles assumed or omitted by the Parties, cannot be hurtful or prejudicial: So that I perceive, all the Delays with which my Enemies have, to this day, with so much Affectation, retarded the Preliminaries of Peace, are very near at an End; and, that if they have sincere Intentions to treat, the Negotiation will very shortly be open'd.

But, because the whole Procedure has given me to understand, how little the House of *Austria* desires to promote the Success of the Assembly; and, I have reason to judge, that the Intention of the States is more sincere; I think it expedient, that in order to give the latter Cause to fear, lest the Conduct of their Allies should deprive them of Peace, which they make a shew of desiring; that you should declare in your Discourse, and as of your own accord, either in speaking to the Mediators, or in conversing with some other Ministers at a Meeting That the Backwardness which has so visibly appear'd in the most part of my Enemies, for Peace, gave you reason to apprehend, that I should be tired, at length, with keeping you so long, and to so little Purpose, in a Place, where they seem to be busy, rather in eluding the Negotiation than forwarding it.

My

My Intention is, that ſpeaking after that manner, you ſhould ſeem to ſpeak as of your own accord, without mentioning my Name: I would not, that any Engagement ſhould appear, on my part, to recal you, notwithstanding the ill Practice of my Enemies; becauſe, perhaps, it would not comport with my Service, to obſerve it, and the Miniſters of the Houſe of *Austria* would become more refractory, if they could, in this manner, oblige me to ſend for you back again: What I would have, is only, that they, who are well affected to a Peace, eſpecially, the States, may conceive a greater Indignation, on Account of the long time, which has been ſpent to no purpoſe, ſince you came to *Nimwegen*; and that, for fear of ſeeing the Aſſembly broke up once more, the States General ſhould be inclined to treat ſeparately with you when they are weary of the affected Delays of their Allies. For what remains, I pray God to take you, my *Couſin*, into his Holy and Worthy Care, and you, *Meſſieurs Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*, into his Sacred Protection.

Written at *St. Germain en Laye*, the 4th of February, 1677.

LETTER

*From Monſieur de Pomponne to the
Ambaſſadors.*

Dated February 4. 1677.

Gentlemen,

THE King's Diſpatch fully answers yours of the 19th and 22^d paſt; it remains to obſerve, after what manner Count *Kinsky* deals with you,

you, and whether he will visit you in the Order that is due to you: Whatever happens, you are fully instructed with his Majesty's Intentions, as to that Affair.

Gentlemen, I send you the Passports, which the Ambassador of *Denmark* has desir'd of you, for the two Natural Sons of Monsieur *Guldenleeuw*, whom he sent to study at *Saumur*: You may keep them if you please, till those of the King of *Denmark* are put into your Hands, for the Marquis *de Vitry*, and Count *Rebenac*, the former to return back to *Straeltsond*, the latter to come hither; so that you may make an Exchange of 'em at the same time.

I hear by Letters from the *Hague*, that the *Sieur de Vasseur* Secretary to the Marquis *de Feuquieres*, has been arrested at *Amsterdam*: He set out from *Paris*, with Monsieur *Lilienrooth*, and had a Passport from the States: 'Tis assur'd, indeed, that it was expired when he was taken, and in that Case, there was nothing at all done contrary to the Rules: But I believe, Gentlemen, and his Majesty has commanded me to write to you, That if you can cause any good Offices to be done, in his Favour, by the Mediators, with the Ambassadors of the States General; they will make no scruple to release a Domestick, whom there is no need to qualify with the Title of Secretary, who was in *Holland*, by vertue of a Passport, and who had no Business there, but to seek for a Passage to go to his Master: And, indeed, he came hither without Employ, and only to bring the News of the Victory which the King of *Sweden* got near *Helmstadt*: I am also assur'd, that he had not his Dispatches about him, and consequently they could not fall into the Hands of the Prince of *Orange*. Gentlemen, I am apt to believe, that your Offices will not be ineffectual, in order to obtain

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tain his Liberty; and I intreat you always to believe, that I am, with all manner of Sincerity entirely devoted to your Service.

L E T T E R

From the Ambassadors to the King.

Dated February 5. 1677.

S I R E,

TH E Diſpatch with which your Maſteſty honour'd us, of the 18th inſtant, gives us ſuch ample and advantageous Inſtructions, with reſpect to the States General, that it only remains for us, to wiſh, that their Ambaſſadors would ſpeedily enter upon Buſineſs with us; ſince we are able to ſatisfy them equally, to the Deſire they have to promote the Negotiations of Peace; and, at the ſame time, to form a Barrier, which may put them in ſome Security: So that, Sire, as ſoon as Monsieur Boering ſhall offer us his Propoſals, we ſhall make uſe of every thing which your Maſteſty has done us the Honour to write to us; And by your Readineſs to receive an Equivalent for Places juſtly conquer'd in Countries ſo remote, we are in a Capacity to rid him of the Apprehenſion he is under, That your Maſteſty being already Maſter of *Sire*, and juſt about getting into your Poſſeſſion other Places, which may ſerve to be exchanged, for thoſe that are more advanced; theſe Exchanges, which they always ſuppoſe your Maſteſty is deſirous of, being in *Flanders*, 'tis impoſſible the Peace ſhould be ſettled upon the ſame Foundation; and the States would, by that means, find themſelves engaged to continue, againſt their Wills, a War, of which they ſo earneſtly deſire to ſee the End.

We

We hope, Sire, that in a few Days, Monsieur *Beverning* will give us occasion to represent to him, these good Intentions of your Majesty, which are so advantageous for the Publick Good, and the Tranquillity of the States General in particular; for we have already put into the Hands of the Mediators, the Form of the Five Full Powers, with the Obligatory Deeds: Neither do we see, that there remains any Difficulty on the side of the adverse Parties, except Two: The *First*, is, That your Majesty gives the Elector of *Brandenburg* the Title of Duke in *Prussia*; and that of most Serene; but, forasmuch as 'tis a Thing that never was practis'd, we believe, they will waive it, as indeed they have not insisted upon it. The *Second* Difficulty is no better founded; but, nevertheless, they urge it with more Force: The Ambassador of *Denmark* claims, since we have our Powers in *French*, That he should have his in *Danish*: We have made appear to the Mediators, that 'tis an unusual Thing; that it is not reasonable, that so ill-grounded a Claim of a private Person, should put a stop to a Work of so great Consequence for all Christendom, as that of Peace; that we would refer ourselves to what was found in two Treaties, to be chosen out of the three last, which we made with *Denmark*; that they would find there, that our Powers were in *French*, and theirs in *Latin*; that the Ambassador of *Denmark* had certain Niceties, which the King his Master never knew; since, without proceeding farther, the Powers he brought hither, are in *Latin*: however, he has receiv'd the Passports of your Majesty in *French*, and no Fault was found, that our Powers were in the same Language: And, lastly, that in all the Treaties of *England*, *Sweden*, and *Denmark* with us, many of the former are in *French*, but all the rest in *Latin*.
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The Mediators knowing, as well as we, the little Grounds there are for the Ambaſſador of *Denmark* to form this Difficulty, have, nevertheleſs, repreſented our Arguments to him ſo weakly, that we fear this Buſineſs will ſtill take up ſome Days.

Sire, This Ambaſſador raiſes another Scruple, upon the Titles which your Maſteſty ought to give to the King his Maſter, and which you ſhould receive from him; whereto we answer'd with the ſame Arguments, That it was only requiſite to follow the laſt Treaties, as alſo the Paſſport which the King his Maſter has given us, and which we have receiv'd from him; we know not, after that, what he can ſay to us.

With regard to the States General, there is no Difficulty; and as to the Emperor and the King of *Spain*, we declar'd they ſhould follow what was agreed upon at *Munſter*, and what has ſince been practis'd in the Treaties of the *Pyrenes* and *Aix la Chapelle*, and in thoſe your Maſteſty has made with the Emperor.

The Ambaſſadors of *Sweden* have likewiſe form'd a Difficulty, which appear'd to make againſt us, in that they claim, in caſe the Powers of the *Spaniards* were in *Spaniſh*, That theiſts ſhould be in *Swediſh*; But we eaſily made them ſenſible of the Difference there is between us and *Spain*, in regard that the *Swedes* affirm, there never was a Treaty between *Spain* and them; ſo that the Matter in debate, is about Eſta bliſhing a Manner of Treating between them, upon which they are altogether free and at liberty to ſtipulate what they think fit; whereas, we, on the contrary, have Twenty Examples, and there is no reaſon to alter that, which a long Cuſtom, (the only Rule by which Conteſts of the like Nature

Nature can be regulated) has sufficiently established.

Sire, After having thank'd your Majesty separately, for the Trust with which you have vouchsafed to honour us, we can only assure you all together, that we shall use our utmost Care and Application, to bring the Affair which you have had the Goodness to impart to us, to a prosperous Issue; and we shall concert Methods to attain thereto, with all possible Fidelity, and all the Zeal with which we are most respectfully, S I R E, &c.

LETTER

From the Ambassadors to Monsieur de Pomponne.

Dated February 5. 1677.

S I R,

WE have little to add to the Letter which we give ourselves the Honour to write to the King; you will see thereby, that the Difficulties which remain, are not worth our insisting upon.

The Mediators desire of us, that the King giving the Title of Brother to the Emperor, may add thereto, that of Cousin: We found no Difficulty in it, and said, that the same Titles should be given to the Emperor, as he should give the King. We have also propos'd it, in order to put an End to all these Preliminaries; the rather, because Monsieur *Kinsky* does not answer, in a manner at all, to what has been told him; excepting, that he is not well informed of the Style of the Emperor's Chancery; that Blanks should

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ſhould be left for the Titles, which may be fill'd up on both ſides, according to Cuſtom.

We ſhew'd the Mediators, that in the Paſports which the King of Denmark has given us, there is, in ſpeaking of the King, *Sereniſſimus atque Potentiſſimus Princeps Dominus Ludovicus Decimus-quartus Francia & Navarre Rex Chriſtianiſſimus*; and we believe, that in the Paſports, which the King has given, it is only the King of Denmark. Monſieur de Haeren, who came to a Supper, which one of us made, has given us Hopes, that we ſhall ſhortly ſee Monſieur Beverning more familiar.

Sir, We have receiv'd the Paſport for Monſieur de Voeller; and one, for us, ſpoke to my Lord Berkley, who has explain'd himſelf ſomewhat clearly, upon the ſmall Affront he receiv'd in France, which has no Relation at all to his Goods; but, becauſe his Wife had no Preſent given her, when many were made to others: He proteſted, at the ſame time, that he did not deſire any; but having the Matter ſo much at Heart, he could not forbear mentioning it: Therefore, Sir, tho' we thought ourſelves oblig'd to write to you of it, you may only take what Notice you pleaſe thereof; for we have not told my Lord Berkley, that we would give you any Notice thereof in Writing. We are,

S I R, &c.

LETTER

LETTER

From the Ambassadors to the King.

Dated February 9. 1677.

S I R E,

WE hop'd, that the End of last Week would likewise have been that of all our Contentts, touching the Full Powers; And, that we should have been able to have given Your Majesty an Account in this, of the Conferences which we flatter'd ourselves we should have, between me, the Marechal d'Esstrades, on one side, with the Prince of Orange; and on the other side, all together, with the Ambassadors of the States General: But the hasty Return of that Prince to the *Hague*, to furnish the pressing Occasions of the Duke of *Villahermosa*, has delay'd, for some Days, the beginning of the Negotiation; and the Visits which the Ambassadors of the States were to have made us, were also stopp'd by new Artifices, which they could not forbear, and which the Mediators likewise disapproved. Your Majesty has been already informed by our preceding Letters, That in order to enter upon Business with the said Ambassadors of the States, and to be, at last, in a Capacity of reaping some Fruit from our long Stay here, we did, according to your Orders, agree to every thing that was desired of us, on the part of the said States, or their Allies, which did not appear to us altogether unreasonable, or contrary to your Majesty's Affairs. We have done yet more; for, in regard that the Mediators, since the Return of Sir *William Temple*, have not terminated any Difficulties;

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to oblige them thereto, we carried, on *Saturday* laſt, the five Models of Power, with the Deeds ſign'd by us, after the manner in which they were concerted; and we permitted them to communicate the ſame, and withal Authentick Copies, to all the Allies, ſo ſoon as the latter ſhould do the ſame thing. Therefore, being preſſ'd after this manner, by ſo much Aſſiduity and facile Methods on our ſide, they reported to us, yeſterday, That imparting the matter to the Allies, Count *Kinsky* only told them, that not being acquainted with the Style of the Emperor's *Chancery*, concerning the Titles which he ought to give your Maſteſty, he deſired, that on our part and his, there might be left Blanks, in order to be fill'd up carefully, according to Cuſtom; and as for the time for bringing theſe new Powers, he conſented, that it ſhould be limited to ſixty Days, inſtead of three Months, which he had deſir'd: That the Ambaſſadors of the States General had declar'd, they were very well ſatisfied with the Full Power and Deed we had ſign'd relating thereto: That thoſe of the Elector of *Brandenburg* not being willing to have Correſpondence with the Mediators, by reaſon of the Refuſal they made, as well as we, to give the Precedency and Title of Excellency to *Monſieur Blaespiet*; and for that reaſon being incapable of carrying them their Full Powers, deſired, that they might receive the Communication of them from the Hands of the Ambaſſadors of the States General, and certiſied to us in writing, that they the ſaid Electoral Miniſters have a ſufficient Power, to oblige themſelves to bring a new one in the Form, which was concerted: That *Don Pedro Ronquillo*, not being able as yet to notify his Arrival ſo ſpeedily, deſir'd, likewise, that we would content ourſelves with the ſame Compliment,

pliment, I mean the same Expedient: That as to the Ambassador of *Denmark*, he declared, That he did not design to regulate himself by Examples, nor even upon the Power he communicated, nor the Passports we had from the King his Master; that he would not oblige himself to bring a Power in *Danish*, if ours was in *French*; that this would not be the first Innovation, introduced within these Twenty Years; that the Government of *Denmark* had changed its Form; lastly, that he claim'd an Equality in all things with *France*; and that he had Orders from the King his Master, not to desist from it. The Mediators own'd to us, that Monsieur *Beverning* himself could not forbear blaming that ridiculous Pretence of Competition. We reply'd, that without taking Notice of the Chimerical Notions of the Ambassador of *Denmark*, which deserv'd no Answer; we design'd to make no Alteration in the Style, which has always been observed between *France* and *Denmark*; and that altho' the *Danes* should have gain'd ten times as many Battles, as they have lost, we would not consent that they should introduce here any Innovation to our Prejudice; so that we will very patiently wait, till their Ambassador recovers his Reason.

As to the Demands of Don *Pedro Ronquillo*, and the Ambassadors of the Elector of *Brandenburg*; tho' we have reason enough to reject them, and to compel those Ministers effectually to communicate their Full Powers to us; nevertheless, forasmuch as they have need only to oblige themselves to bring new ones, and it ought to be sufficient for us, that those of the Ambassadors of the States-General are well grounded; we thought ourselves obliged to accept of the Expedient propos'd, in order to hold on with all the

Allies,

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Allies, and diſpoſe them ſo much the more, not to countenance the ill-grounded Obſtinacy of the Ambaſſador of *Denmark*.

Thoſe of *Sweden* have not brought a leſs Obſtacle to the Negotiation, by the Proteſtation they made, that the term of Sixty Days, ſhall not go for them; That then they ſhould have an entire Freedom to diſpatch Couriers to the King their Maſter, whereas they were confined in the beginning, to deſire it as to the preſent, in favour of the Couriers only, whom they ſhould ſend to bring thoſe new Full Powers; and that the Extent which they allow for all the others, having been already denied the Allies by Your Maſteſty, cannot be juſtly demanded for them. We repreſented to them, the Delays which this Proteſtation might occaſion in the Peace; but it ſeems, the Advantages which the King, their Maſter, has gain'd in the late Battle, induces them to believe, that they will loſe nothing by temporizing; nevertheless, we hope, that if the Ambaſſador of *Denmark* hearken to Reaſon, our Allies will alſo conform themſelves thereto.

Sire, we are obliged to begin our Solicitations with your Maſteſty, and moſt humbly deſire that you would vouchſafe to order the Payment of what is due to us, out of the Salaries you have done us the favour to grant to us: The Price of Proviſions and Commodities being augmented here, to ſuch a Degree, that without continual Supplies from Your Maſteſty, it will be impoſſible to ſubſiſt in theſe Parts. We are, with a moſt profound Reſpect, Sire, &c.

X
LETTER

LETTER

From the Ambassadors to Monsieur
de Pomponne.

Dated February 9. 1677.

SIR,

WE are extremely mortified, because we have no other Account as yet, to give the King, but of the Tricks that are put upon us, as to the Full Powers, after having laid down so many facile Methods on our part; but to tell you the Truth, the Pretension of the Ambassador of *Denmark*, which he sent us Word, was his short and clear Answer (those are the Terms) is so unwarrantable, that tho' we should be induced to receive his Full Power in *Danish*, yet we could not grant him, without the King's Order, what he demands, after having explain'd himself as he has done; and we believe, we ought to adhere to a Custom established by an infinite Number of Examples, of which we have here three Proofs, one from the Treaty made 1645, by Monsieur de la Toullerie, at *Copenhagen*, printed in *Siri*, with the Powers, one in *French*, the other in *Latin*; The other is that which the Ambassador of *Denmark* has communicated to us; and the third, the Passports which we have from the King his Master, also in *Latin*. The Protestation made by the Ambassadors of *Sweden*, of which we send you a Copy, is not the least Obstacle to the Negotiation; they likewise claim, with respect to *Spain*, the same thing as the Ambassador of *Denmark* does, with regard to *France*. Thus, Sir, our Negotiation, I mean our Navigation, is stop'd by

a North Wind, and 'tis requiſite it ſhould ceaſe before we can proceed. We are, &c.

Sir, We have omitted to tell you, That Count Kinſky has obliged the Mediators to ſhew him the Powers, by virtue of which they act here. They came to acquaint us therewith, and propos'd to communicate them to us; but we gave them by our Answer, as much reaſon to be well ſatisfied with us, as they declared they had a Diffidence of the others.

L E T T E R

From the King to the Ambaſſadors.

Dated February 11. 1677.

Couſin, Meſſieurs Colbert, and Count d'Avaux, the Letter which you wrote to me of the 26thth ult. and that which you added thereto of the 23^d, were deliver'd to me at the ſame time: I have receiv'd Advice therein, as you ſent me Word before, That all the Difficulties, touching the Full Powers, were terminated; but in waiting for thoſe which were to be procur'd by all the Parties, conformably to the Scheme of the Mediators, you heard that thoſe of the Emperor's Miniſters were expreſſed in Terms ſo injurious to France, that you could not allow them; ſo that the Negotiation will be ſuſpended upon that Accident, till you ſhall be in a Capacity to treat with his Miniſters upon the new Full Powers. I think it proper, that in order to avoid ſo long a Delay, you ſhould make uſe of the Expedient which you propos'd to me, and that without taking, by yourſelves, the Communications of the Full Powers of the Emperor, you

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should tell the Mediators, that you will be content to treat with the Imperial Ministers about the Writing, which they are to put into their Hands, touching that Draught. If I thought my Enemies were sincerely disposed to forward the Negotiation, I should expect to hear speedily by your Letters, that it was begun; but the Delays which they have been fond of hitherto, give me no Grounds to believe, that the Conferences of Peace will be so soon open'd.

I so amply inform'd you in my last Dispatch, concerning my Intention about the Full Powers, which are desired of you, that I have not any thing to add to it in this. You might observe thereby, that whatsoever Reasons I had not to agree in particular, with the Elector of *Brandenburg*; yet I was willing to consent thereto, for the benefit of Peace, upon condition, nevertheless, that you take all the necessary Securities, as well on the part of the Emperor, as the States-General, and their Allies, not to extend the like Pretensions to any other Prince. For what remains, I pray God to take you, my Cousin, into his Holy and worthy Care, and you Messieurs *Colbert*, and Count *d'Avaux*, into his Sacred Protection.

Written at *St. Germain en Laye*, the 11th of February, 1677.

LETTER

L E T T E R

From Monsieur de Pomponne to the
Ambassadors.

Dated February 11. 1677.

Gentlemen,

YOU perceiv'd, by my last Letter, that the King was before inform'd of the Arrest of the Sieur *le Vasseur*, of which you gave me Notice by your Dispatch of the 26th ult. That of the 19th of the same Month, and of the 2d instant, which I receiv'd just now, and of which I am going to give an Account to his Majesty, inform me of the Diligence you have us'd in his Favour, with Monsieur *Beverning*, as well as of the Rigour with which they dealt with him at the *Hague*. He has reason to promise himself a great deal from your good Offices, at least, if they are inclin'd to do Justice in *Holland*; but it may be said, That the Sieur *Silverskroon* treats the King of *Sweden* very ill, if he does not do all that he can, to preserve the Dispatches, which he has no reason to doubt have Regard to his Concerns.

The same Rumour of a separate Treaty between *France* and *Holland*, is come over to us from *London*; it is so ill-grounded, that there is Reason to believe it will be easily quash'd. His Majesty has also given the King of *England* to understand, as to that Affair, that he was incapable of treating about any thing without his Participation.

Gentlemen, I rejoyce before-hand, to see by your Dispatch of the 2d instant, that you were by this time to enter into a Negotiation with

the Ambassadors of *Holland*, since you have put an end to all the Difficulties about the Full Powers, and even that of the Elector of *Brandenburg*, after the Promise which was made you by the Mediators and the Ambassadors of *Holland*. The Affair ought not to be a Precedent. I am, Gentlemen, with all the Sincerity that can be, entirely at your Service.

L E T T E R

From the Ambassadors to the King.

Dated February 12. 1677.

S I R E,

THE *Liege* Post is arrived, without bringing us any of the Letters, which were directed to *Maastricht*; so that we cannot be charged with the Receipt of those, with which Your Majesty would have honour'd us; and since our last Post, the Mediators have not advanced any thing which deserves to be written to you: On the contrary, we have heard from my Lord *Berkley*, (who is the only Person that, seconding the good Intentions of his Master, wishes for Peace, and informs us of all the Obstructions which his Colleagues raise) that Monsieur *Beverning* having declared to them, that he did not think it proper to make War, to support the Chimeras of the Ambassador of *Denmark*; and having also intreated them to communicate to us his Form of the Full Power, with the Deed signed by him and Monsieur *Haeren*, and also to give us Authentick Copies of them, as it was agreed on: Sir *William Temple* reply'd, and without consulting the others, told him, it was the Duty of the Media-

tors

tors, to maintain an Union amongst the Allies, and to advance nothing on one ſide, which all the Parties who compoſe it, ſhould not agree to. And the ſaid *Sieur Beverning* having returned Answer, That it was the Duty of the Mediators to take charge of the Full Power, and of the Writing which he offer'd to put into their Hands, in order to communicate it to us; and that upon their Refuſal, he would carry it us himſelf. The ſaid *Sir William Temple*, and *Sir Lionel Jenkins*, and *Monſieur Hyde* intreated the ſaid *Monſieur Beverning* to give them two or three Days more, in order to diſpoſe *Count Kinsky*, and all the other Allies; to conſent thereto, and to do the ſame things on their part: That only the Ambaſſador of *Denmark* obſtinately inſiſted, that a Power ſhould be brought in *Daniſh*; but that there were Grounds to hope, that this Day, at fartheſt, we ſhould receive a Viſit from the Mediators, which would terminate all thoſe Difficulties to our Satisfaction; if it be paid us before the Departure of the Poſt, we ſhall not fail to inform Your Maſteſty of every thing that ſhall be told us.

In the mean time, *Sir William Temple* takes ſo little care to conceal his Joy, occaſion'd by the Cavils which retard the Negotiation, that the Ambaſſadors of the States are no leſs offended at it, than we: But forasmuch as all his Diſcourſe plainly ſhows us, that his Aim is rather to pleaſe the Parliament of *England*, than the King his Maſter; our Complaints would give him but too much Satisfaction; and we believe we cannot be better revenged of his Conduct, than by declaring both to him and others, that we are pleas'd with it. The Allies are diſſatisfy'd with one another, and my Lord *Berkley* told us, That in a ſhort time we ſhould ſee the breaking up of the

Assemblies which they have begun to hold at the Town-House; because they cannot agree neither as to the Ranks, nor the Manner of Proceeding, nor the Substance of the Proposals, which they are to make. The Imperialists and the Spaniards apprehend, that so soon as Way shall be made for the Negotiation, the Ambassadors of the States-General will treat separately with us; and all the Steps of Monsieur *Be-verning* have plainly shew'd us, that he is no less desirous than we, of forwarding, by reciprocal Visits, the Negotiations of Peace, without the Interposition of the Mediators, who, he acknowledges, are very averse thereto, and declare they only wish it to be General, because they believe it either impossible or very remote. We shall not inform Your Majesty in this Letter, of the last Conference that the *Mareschal d'Estrades* had with Monsieur *Pestier*; for tho' I have since told my Collegues what was transacted there most essential, I thought myself obliged to give a separate Account of it to Your Majesty. We are, with a most profound Respect, *Sirs, &c.*

LETTER

From the Ambassadors to Monsieur de Pomponne.

Dated February 12. 1677.

S I R,

WE have nothing to add to the Letter we give ourselves the Honour to write to the King; but altho' the Mediators have not yet made us a Visit as we expected, nevertheless, Sir *William Temple* has given us to understand, in a

of the Mareſc. d'Eſtrades, &c. 227

Diſcourſe, which his Meeting with us occaſioned, That if we would conſent that he ſhould inſert in the Deed of *Non-Prejudice*, that the Difference of Languages, which ſhould be uſ'd in the diſpatching of the Full Powers, cannot be taken for a Precedent, he would endeavour to prevail with the Ambaſſador of *Denmark*, upon that condition, to bring one in *Latin*; ſo that we have cauſe to hope, that in a ſhort time that Ambaſſador will hearken to Reaſon; and that without ſtipulating any thing, he will conform himſelf to what has been always practis'd between *France* and *Denmark*. We are, Sir, with a great deal of Sincèrity, entirely at your Service.

POSTSCRIPT.

Since the writing of our Letters, his Maſteſty's Diſpatch, and yours of the 4th, came to our Hands; and forasmuch as we have not time enough to return an Answer to them, we ſhall only have the Honour to tell you, Sir, we hope the Reaſons that obliged us to conſent to the fifth Full Power, upon the Affurances which were given us on the part of the Ambaſſadors of the States-General, by the Mediators, will ſatisfie his Maſteſty; ſo much the rather, becauſe it is a Condition, without which we cannot, for the future, make a Separate Treaty with the ſaid States. We ſhall adhere more ſtrictly hereafter, to a punctual Obſervation of the King's Orders, tho' the Dangers, to which His Maſteſty expoſes himſelf, during the Campaign, ought to render excuſable the Zeal we have to withdraw him out of it, by a good and ſpeedy Peace.

While we were concluding this Letter, the Mediators brought us the Form of the Full Powers.

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Powers of the States-General, with the Act sign'd by them in due Form: So that, Sir, the others will be obliged to do the like, or the former to treat separately.

LETTER

From the Ambassadors to Monsieur de Pomponne.

Dated February 16. 1677.

SIR,

WE have little to write to you this Post. The Mediators have told us, That the King of England complains of them, for having suffer'd the Word *Mediation* to be taken out of the Full Powers; but that he is well satisfied, at the same time, with our Conduct, and complains of that of the other Parties: And forasmuch as the Mediators intreated us, that that Word may be re-inserted in the Full-Powers, we immediately caus'd others to be dispatched in the Form they desir'd, and sent them to my Lord Berkley the same Evening, which has serv'd as an Example to the other Ambassadors, who knowing our Proceedings, consented to put in the Word *Mediation* again into their Full Powers. Thus that Affair is terminated.

It remains, Sir, to give you an Account of the Visit the Mediators made us this Morning, to tell us, That the Full-Powers of Monsieur Ronquille were in due Form. We ask'd them whether he was qualifi'd with the Title of *Ambassador* and *Plenipotentiary*; to which they made no Answer, and only told us, That they could not give us any Insight into that Matter, till they had

of the Mareſc. d'Eſtrades, &c. 229

had notified to Monsieur de Ronquillo, the Demand we made upon them. We told them farther, That if he has only the Title of Plenipotentiary, we would not allow him the Precedency, nor the Character of Excellency.

We ſhall write to Day, to Monsieur de la Haye, every thing that has paſſ'd between the Ambassadors-Plenipotentiary of Brandenburg and us, as to their Claim upon your Reſolution, according to his Majesty's Commands, in order to avoid falling, if it be poſſible, into the like Difficulties with the Ambassadors, whom the Elector of Bavaria is to ſend hither. We are, &c.

LETTER

From the King to the Ambassadors.

Dated February 18. 1677.

Couſin, Meſſieurs Colbert. and Count d'Avaux ;
Foraſmuch as the Letter you wrote to me of the 5th inſtant, has ſignified to me, That all the Difficulties touching the Full Powers, are terminated, ſince you put into the Hands of the Mediators, the Form of the Full Powers, and the Obligatory Deeds : I have nothing to answer what you wrote to me on that Affair, by your Diſpatches of the 29th ult. and 2d inſtant. I ought not to think (even as you obſerved to me) that the Pretenſion of Monsieur Beverning for the Title of moſt Serene, and Duke in Pruffia, can be capable to detain you ; and I cannot think neither, that the Difficulty rais'd by the Ambaſſador of Denmark, becauſe your Full Powers are in French, can be approved by any of the Miniſters, who are at the Aſſembly : All theſe Innovations ought to be look'd upon ſo much the more odious, becauſe

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because they consume a great deal of Time; and besides, they are opposed by a Custom, receiv'd in all the Treaties I have made with those Princes. As to the Title of Cousin, which the Plenipotentiaries of the Emperor desire I would add to that of Brother, when I speak of their Master, you did well in complying therewith, since they seem'd to desire it.

After all the Delays of the Preliminaries, I am apt to believe, that your first Dispatches will inform me, That the *Sieur Beverning* is enter'd into the Negotiation with you: He declar'd himself too positively, to leave any room for doubting it; and notwithstanding any Proposals he has made to you, I assure my self he has found you very advantageously instructed as to the Interest of his Masters.

Besides, I expect to know what Success the Affair may have, the Secret of which I imparted to you all three, and the Management whereof is put into the Hands of only one of you. For the rest, I pray God to take you, my Cousin, into his Holy and Worthy Care, and you Messieurs *Colbert* and Count d'*Avaux*, into his Sacred Protection.

Written at *St. Germain en Laye*, the 18th of February, 1677.

LETTER

LETTER

From Monsieur de Pomponne to the
Ambassadors.

Dated February 18. 1677.

Gentlemen,

I Hope that your Diſpatches will contain henceforth more important Matters, than thoſe which they have treated of hitherto. The Preliminaries being finiſhed, there is an Appearance that Monsieur *Beverning* will ſpeedily begin the Negotiation; and that your Diſpatches will inform his Maſteſty of the Propoſals he has made, altho' a great deal of Advantage can't be expected from the firſt; nevertheless, it is a Matter of no ſmall Conſequence, that you are once enter'd into the Way, which may lead to Peace, and which *Gentlemen*, ought to procure you the Glory of it.

'Tis a long time ago, ſince we knew of the cauſſeſs Complaints of my Lord *Berkley*, and the Claim he laid to a Preſent for Madam his Spouſe. 'Tis not uſual here to give it to Ambaſſadors, tho' he was willing to follow the Example of Madam *Lockart*: 'Tis true that ſhe receiv'd one; yet it was not for her, but properly that which belong'd to her Husband, who died at *Paris*. However, forasmuch as my Lord *Berkley* did not deſire you to make any mention of it; 'tis expedient to take no notice thereof; and even to let him believe, that you have not wrote about the Matter. I am, *Gentlemen*, &c.

LETTER

LETTER

*From the Ambassadors to the King.**Dated February 19. 1677.*

S I R E,

WE have already us'd the Precautions which Your Majesty commanded us to take, by Your Dispatch of the 11th instant, to avoid the Consequences of the Full Power granted to the Ambassador of the Elector of *Brandenburg*, as to the Securities we have taken of the Mediators, and the Ambassadors of *Holland*, That that particular Full Power might not be made a Precedent for the other Electors and Princes of the Empire. And altho' the Matter be done and agreed upon; nevertheless, we have not as yet the Model of the Power of the Ambassadors of that Elector, because they have not deliver'd it into the Hands of the Mediators; but we have given an Account thereof to Your Majesty. That of the Ambassadors of *Holland*, in Exchange by Copy, was drawn up by the Mediators, who kept the Originals; which Ambassadors of *Holland*, nevertheless, have not spoke one Word of it to us: And forasmuch as we thought yesterday to conclude the Affair with Count *Kinsky*, by a like Exchange, we discover'd, as well by the Copies of the Full Power, as by the Deed which that Ambassador had sign'd, that he assum'd great Titles for the Emperor, and among others, that of Duke of *Burgundy*; which induc'd us to desire of the Mediators, the Deed they made, importing that the Characters taken or omitted cannot be hurtful or prejudicial; who having answer'd us, That they had not yet sign'd it; we did not receive the Full Power of the Emperor, with those

thoſe Titles, without that Deed; inſomuch, Sir, that the Matter is like to continue ſo for ſome Days.

Sir *William Temple* being, yeſterday in the Evening, in a Conference with us, *Colbert* and *Arnaud*, told us, that *Don Pedro Ronquillo* was a Man of a good Converſation; that he was deſirous an Opportunity could be found of viſiting him; and that he believ'd, altho' he only bore the Character of Plenipotentiary, and not that of Ambaſſador, yet we ought to make no Scruple of giving him the Precedency, ſince *Monſieur Clingenberg* had it at *Breda*, from all the Ambaſſadors, tho' he likewiſe bore only the Title of Plenipotentiary. However, I the Mareſchal d'Eſtrades, who was the Chief of Your Maſteſty's Embaſſy at *Breda*, do not in any wiſe remember that the ſaid *Monſieur Clingenberg* had any ſuch Pretenſion, nor even that it was mention'd in the Negotiation. As to this Matter, we ſhall wait Your Maſteſty's Orders, and are, with all manner of Submission and Reſpect, Sir, &c.

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to *Monſieur de Pomponne*.

Dated *February 19. 1677.*

S-I R,

YOU will ſee by the Letter we did ourſelves the Honour to write to the King, the Account we gave him of what has occurr'd ſince our laſt; and in returning an Answer to that which you have done us the Honour to write to us, which accompanied that of His Maſteſty, we are to tell you,

you, That we believe the *Sieur le Vasseur* is at Liberty; at least, they give me, the *Mareschal d'Estades*, some hopes of it from the *Hague*: But forasmuch as they add to the Advice which was brought, that the States would examine the Papers, to see whether any thing were contained in them, contrary to their Service; we judge there is nothing very certain, unless that if the Papers are examined, it must needs be, that the Envoy of Sweden and Monsieur *Silwerkroon*, have very unadvisedly forwarded the Search after those of the said *le Vasseur*, among the Goods of the said Envoy, which is, Sir, (as you observe well) to do a very ill piece of Service to the K. of Sweden their Master.

The Ambassadors of Sweden have made Complaints to us, of the Severities, they say, are us'd in the Duchy of *Deux-Ponts*, which the King of Sweden their Master ought to inherit; and have desired us to write about it to the King, to the end that it might please his Majesty to give Orders that those Places may be treated more gently, as well for the Preservation of the Archives and Papers, as for that of the Tombs of the Dukes, who are Ancestors of the King of Sweden; of which, Sir, we give you one word of Notice, it being difficult for us to exempt ourselves from it.

Sir, We have several things, of which we stand in need to be informed, and to have more positive Orders, considering the Alterations made in those which have been given us.

The King has enjoin'd us to demand, in the first Overtures of the Conferences, the Restitution of 48000 Crowns, belonging to his Majesty, which were taken at *Colozn* by the Emperor's Officers: We desire to know, Sir, whether there be any Alteration in that respect, and whether we may make one at present, when there is a likelihood we shall enter upon a Negotiation.

We

We have alſo receiv'd Orders to put the Ambaſſadors of *England* in mind, That his Maſteſty was, upon the Inſtances of the King their Maſter, engaged to uſe his good Offices, for obtaining the Liberty of Prince *William* of *Furſtemberg*, and to declare to the Ambaſſadors of the States General, their Obligation to uſe their Intereſt, jointly with his Maſteſty of *Great-Britain*, at the Emperor's Court, for the ſame End: And we moſt humbly intreat you, Sir, to take the Trouble of certifying us, Whether we ſhall execute that Order, in our firſt Conferences: Our Reaſon to doubt of it is, that his Maſteſty has ſince order'd us to put off that Demand, till the Aſſembly be formed, and the Ambaſſadors of the Emperor and *Spain* are arriv'd therein; who being there at preſent, and about to enter upon Buſineſs, we deſire to know of you, which of the two Orders we ſhall obey, and whether in executing them, we ought not to content ourſelves with uſing our Offices with the Mediators, and the Ambaſſadors of the States General, according to our Inſtructions, without making a Condition to proceed farther.

Sir, We have greater need of a clearer Light, as to the Proteſtations which the King order'd us to put into the Hands of the Mediators, with regard to Prince *Charles*, that the Titles which his Maſteſty has given him of Duke of *Lorrain*, &c. cannot be hurtful or prejudicial; for this is a proper time of doing it; and we deſire to know of you, whether we may not do it: We believe that the Writing which the Mediators have given, importing, that the Titles aſſumed or omitted, cannot be hurtful or prejudicial to the Parties, cannot be a ſufficient Proteſtation, with reſpect to us, in a Buſineſs of ſo great Importance, that ſeems to require ſomewhat more exact and poſitive: And the

the rather, because, when a Writing is to be taken in the strict Sense, we believe it cannot extend to the Case of the Affair of *Lorraine*; because the Title which his Majesty gives in his Passports for the Duke of *Lorraine*, is neither assumed nor omitted, but is given; which is a Case that is not compriz'd in the Writing of the Mediators, and which they were not willing also to comprehend, by the Declaration they made, That the Parties should not be oblig'd to give their Adversaries the Titles they demand; but, that every one should assume those which he thought convenient. This induces us to believe, it will be necessary to deliver an express Protestation on our Behalf, into the Hands of the Mediators; and, that it will be difficult to forbear beginning from thence, if we are press'd, and we shall make mention therein, that 'tis upon the Condition of that Protestation, that his Majesty had notified to the King of *Great Britain*, that upon his Instances, he had granted that Title, which, nevertheless, we defer to do, if we are not press'd thereto, by the farther Light we expect from you, if you please, upon the whole matter.

P O S T S C R I P T.

Since the Writing of our Letter, the Mediators brought us the Form of the Emperor's Full Power, with the Deed, sign'd by Count *Kinsky*, a Copy whereof we shall transmit to you, by the next Post; and, we send you, at present, the Declaration which the Mediators gave us, at the same time, that the Titles assumed or omitted, cannot be hurtful or prejudicial.

LETTER

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur
de Pomponne.

Dated February 23. 1677.

SIR,

WE give ourſelves the Honour to ſend you
the Extracts of Letters, which I the Ma-
reſchal d'Eſtrades have taken out of my Diſpa-
ches of Breda; whereby you will ſee the Orders
I receiv'd, to give the Precedency and Title of
Excellency to the Plenipotentiary of Denmark.
'Tis true, that this would ſtand for no Precedent;
but it appears, that that Clause relates rather to
thoſe, who, beſides the Title of Plenipotentiary,
have that of Envoy, than ſuch as are only in-
veſted with that of Plenipotentiary, as is Don
Pedro Ronquillo. However, forſmuch as at Mun-
ſter, thoſe who had not the Title of Ambaſſa-
dor, tho' they were Plenipotentiaries, were trea-
ted only as Deputies; and, whereas the Ambaſ-
ſadors of Sweden, answered us, That Monſieur
Perſum ought to be comprehended in the ſame
Power, but without any other Character, than
that of being Partner, in that of Count Anthony
and Monſieur Hough, Ambaſſador of Denmark;
we believe, that this Step, with reſpect to Don
Pedro Ronquillo, might be a Precedent *ad infinitum*;
and that, ſince he is to be declared Ambaſſador in
two Months, reckoning from the 14th inſtant,
there will not, perhaps, be ſo many Inconveni-
encies in waiting till that time; and beſides, be-
cauſe he does not forbear acting, altho' *congruo*,
and the Negotiation is not retarded thereby.

In a Conference which we held with the Ambassadors of *Sweden*, Count *Oxenstiern* told us, That Monsieur *Beverning* had visited him, and after having entertain'd him with the same Discourses, which we have repeated, Sir, so often to you, concerning Monsieur *Beverning's* being dissatisfy'd with the Mediators, and the great Aversion he perceiv'd in Count *Kinsky* to a Peace; he told him, that in a Conference, which all the Allies held together, Monsieur *Kinsky* having represented, he was desirous that all the Allies should give their Proposals jointly; his Answer was, That what he propos'd was only with a Design to put off the Peace: That it was a long time since they made us wait for it, under colour of Exchanging the Powers; and, that since the Allies do not express a greater Inclination to Peace, they would make their Proposals to the *Hollanders* separately, and without any Delay; That afterwards Monsieur *Beverning* enlarged on the Advantage, which the Emperor would reap from a Continuation of the War, and upon the excessive Charges it would cost the States, and the little Benefit that would redound to them from thence; and, that lastly, he told him, He was ready to give in his Proposals separately, if we would do the same. Forasmuch as we willingly embrace (according to the King's Orders) every thing which may forward a Peace, we accepted that Offer with Delight; but, in regard we have some Grounds to apprehend, That Monsieur *Beverning's* Intentions are not so sincere, as he would make them appear; and that, perhaps, he has no other Aim (as we gather from some Words he let fall) than to make his Allies fear a Separate Peace, in order to induce them to a General one: We made use of an Expedient, which was; That Count *Oxenstiern* should go, the same day, to visit Mon-

Monſieur *Beverning*, and tell him, that we were all ready to give in our Propoſals, with reſpect to the States General, provided he would give in his at the ſame time; and upon Condition, that we ſhould have the Promiſe of him the ſaid *Beverning*, that if two Days after the Mediators had receiv'd our Propoſals, they did not reſpectively communicate them to us, in that Caſe, he would do it directly to us ourſelves, as he declar'd ſo often he would do. Thus, Sir, we cannot be apprehenſive of falling into an Inconveniency, which was, to give our Propoſals to the Mediators, who would make uſe of 'em to preſs the Allies, who aſſuredly would not enter into a Negotiation, but on purpoſe to thwart it: And we believe, tho' they ſhould not be farther exaſperated by it, yet they would keep our Propoſals a Fortnight or Three Weeks, without telling or communicating any thing to us, and ſo would render the firſt ſtep we ſhould make fruitleſs, which might alſo turn to our Prejudice.

Yeſterday in the Evening, we receiv'd an Answer from Count *Oxenſtiern*, by which we may apprehend, that it was not, perhaps, without Reason, that we had ſome Miſtruſt, at firſt, of Monſieur *Beverning*: He declar'd, he was very glad of the Offer we made him; and, that he would moſt willingly accept it: But afterwards he told him, that at that very Moment he had heard, there was an Obſtacle as it were inſurmountable, and that gave him the greateſt Uneaſineſs in the World; which was, that the Mediators have declar'd, on the part of the King of *England*, that they could have no Correſpondence with the Ambaſſadors of *Brandenburg*, who, not being willing to viſit the Mediators in Perſon, all manner of Communication was become impracticable with thoſe Ambaſſadors, who, on their ſide, could not be drawn off

off from their Allies, Sir, We will not stay to shew you, how far the Ambassadors are to blame in the main; since, after having receiv'd a Visit of the Mediators, they only refus'd to return it them; but the Mediators, notwithstanding that, having pass'd by all the Forms, and having been to meet them, when it was requisite to discourse of Affairs, those of *Brandenburg*, after having receiv'd two or three Visits from Sir *Lionel Jenkins*, absolutely refus'd to visit him, unless they would give all of 'em the Title of Excellency, and the Precedency; and conferr'd with the Mediators, by means of the Ambassador of *Denmark*: So that, Sir, 'tis not to be wonder'd, that the King of *England* was offended at so haughty a Procedure, in Maintaining so unjust a Pretension; but it is much more extraordinary (as we have taken Notice to Count *Oxenstiern*) that the Ambassadors of the States, should countenance them in this very Pretension, so contrary to the Interests of their Republicks; and performing yet something more, than the Business of the Allies, they should take Colour from thence, rather to break off all Manner of Negotiation, than to abandon them upon that Occasion. But the Pretence is so frivolous, and so little grounded in Reason, that a Man of so much Judgment as Monsieur *Beverning*, ought not to have propos'd it; for, what he offer'd us Twenty four hours before, was, to give in our Proposals separately, on both sides. At that time, the Business in Hand was not about those of the Elector of *Brandenburg*, who has not yet communicated his first Powers; so far was he from having sign'd the Copy of the Form of the New ones. Monsieur *Beverning* then knew very well, that the Affair could not be terminated in a Fortnight: Nevertheless, he said, He would discharge himself from it, and at present,

He

he

he ſays, he cannot ; tho' 'tis not yet observable, that thoſe Propoſals have any thing in common, and that we have any Concern with the Miniſters of *Brandenburz*. The whole Reſult of this Conference with Count *Oxenſtiern* was, that he deſir'd him to find out an Expedient for that Affair, and communicate it to us. This, Sir, is the preſent Poſture of our Affairs : However, we expect *Monſieur Beverning*, who has ſaid, that he will come and ſee one of us, under Colour of a Viſit, not daring, as yet, to ſee us all together. We doubt not, but he will tell us twice more of the Matter, than he has done to others ; but we ſhall ſee what he will do, and from thence we ſhall judge ourſelves very ready to change Opinion, when he ſhall give us Occaſion.

Sir, You know better than we, that the Ambaſſadors of the States are oblig'd to give their Propoſals in Writing, by reaſon of the neceſſity there is of communicating them to all the Towns : However, the Delay which this occaſioned at *Munſter*, and the Inconveniencies which may ariſe from thence, ſeem to authorize a Method of treating *Viva Voce*, and to give them up to the Mediators. Sir, We intreat you to let us know, what is the King's Pleaſure thereupon ; whether we ſhould give all our Propoſals in Writing, whether we ſhould give none at all after that Manner, or whether we ſhould content ourſelves to deliver in the Firſt, which is as a Plan of all the reſt ; and, in which, foraſmuch as all is not offer'd, that will be granted, tho' it may be troubleſome to give Copies thereof, it will be yet more ſo, to let an Extract be taken from thence, which being ſeparated from the Whole, that is inſerted, in order to make it appear, that they are ready to do ſome other Things beſides, would exhibit to the States, Propoſals that are very je-

june and undigested. 'Tis with this View, and upon Monsieur *Beverning's* Offer, that we have made this separate Scheme, which we shall give in, Sir, if Occasion serves, and his Majesty judges, that it can be no Precedent, either in itself, as to its Tenour, or as to its Consequence, with respect to all the other Proposals, which they would also engage us to make, and which we do not believe conduce to his Service, to be in a Capacity to make.

Sir, We send you the Power of *Don Pedro Ronquillo*; and you may see therein his Titles: He has not yet sent the Writing, importing an Obligation to bring another; from whence you may judge, that those Gentlemen would make long Delays in it, since being agreed upon all, above a Month ago, that might have been done in 24 Hours, which we did not accomplish in 6 Weeks. We also annex to this Letter, the Copy of the Obligatory Deed of Count *Kinsky*, which we had not time to get transcribed the last Post.

My Lord *Berkley*, since the Writing of our Letter, has brought us the Form of the Power, which *Don Pedro Ronquillo* propos'd to bring; so that there only remain those of *Denmark* and *Brandenburg*. My Lord *Berkley* has confirmed to us, what was told us, concerning the Order they received from the King their Master, to have no Correspondence with the Ambassadors of the Elector of *Brandenburg* by Mediators, and afterwards added, that Count *Kinsky* agreed, that it was an Innovation; but, that the Emperor pretended, that having given Orders to his Ambassadors, to deal after this manner, the others ought to follow that Example: We did not fail to tell him thereupon, what we ought.

The

of the Mareſc. d'Eſtrades, &c. 243

The Marquis *de Los Balbaſes*, has ſent us the preſent Certificate, by Sir *Lionel Jenkins*, and cauſ'd him to demand of us at the ſame time, whether we would give him our Promiſe, that his Domeſticks ſhould be ſafe; but forasmuch as we have not Power to do it, we told him, Sir, that we would write to you of it, to know the King's Pleaſure; and whether his Maſteſty were willing to grant a Duplicate for his Baggage, in regard that the *Spaniards* have given one of the ſame Nature to *Monſieur de Marſeille*, or after what Manner he would pleaſe to provide for the Safety of that Ambaſſador's Equipage. We are moſt really, Sir, entirely devoted to your Service.

LETTER

From the King to the Ambaſſadors.

Dated *February 25. 1677.*

Couſin, *Meffieurs Colbert*, and Count *d'Avaux*; I thought, that all the Difficulties relating to the Full Powers, and the Preliminaries of your Negotiation, had been terminated, till I receiv'd your Diſpatch of the 9th inſtant, which ſhews me, that the groundleſs Pretences ſtarted, particularly on the part of the Ambaſſador of *Denmark*, ſtill obſtruct it with a longer Delay. You did very well in perſevering in your Reſolution, to make no Alteration in a Cuſtom, eſtabliſh'd in all the Treaties I have ſign'd with that Crown, even the laſt, in 1665; in all which, it cannot be deny'd, that their Full Powers were in *Latin*, when thoſe of my Miniſters were in *French*. Forasmuch as that Pretention is diſapprov'd by all the Al-

lies, particularly by the *Hollanders*; I cannot think, that that Ambassador would countenance it, since Custom and Practice are the only Rules to decide Difficulties of this sort by.

Since the Mediators have no Correspondence directly with the Ambassadors of *Brandenburg*, touching the Difficulty of the Precedency, and Title of Excellency for the *Seconds*; you may accept of the *Medium* that they may receive the Communication of their Full Power, by the Ambassadors of *Holland*, and grant the same Expedient to *Don Pedro Ronquillo*, who, I am sensible, only delays to communicate his Full Powers, because there is only the Title of Plenipotentiary, which imports neither Precedency, nor the Title of Excellency, nor that of Ambassador: But it is sufficient for you to treat, that at the same time the Mediators shall be sensible, that he is sufficiently authoriz'd, he may give the obligatory Deed, which is agreed on, whereby he promises to bring, within the time limited, a Full Power conformable to the Scheme, which has been drawn by the Ambassadors of *England*.

Seeing that Count *Kinsky* declares, He is ignorant of the Chancery of his Master, 'tis expedient, he should leave a Blank for his Titles in the Writing, which he shall give to the Mediators.

There are Inconveniencies in the Pretension of the Ambassadors of *Sweden*, that the Sixty days of the Term prescrib'd, for furnishing the Full Powers, may commence only from that day on which the Freedom for the Passage of ordinary Couriers of *Sweden* shall be establish'd. They know too well, how impossible it has been hitherto, to surmount the Obstacle form'd by the King of *Denmark*, and it would be in his Power, by continuing to refuse it, absolutely to stop the Negotiation of Peace.

You

You have ſeen, by my former Diſpatches, that in order to rid the States General from any Apprehenſion they may be under, as to *Flanders*, when they ſhould ſign a private Treaty with me, I was willing to encourage them by a Ceſſation of Arms, in all the Low-Countries, and that I would not make my Self Maſter of any Place: I continue ſtill in the ſame Sentiments; I will inform you of them then at large, and communicate them, at the ſame Time, to the King of *England*; But, becauſe, I have conſider'd ſince, that the States, and *England* alſo, have ſhewn, by the Advantage of their Correſpondence, a great Miſtruſt of the Conqueſt of *Sicily*; I judg'd it expedient to rid them alſo out of the Fear, that I would give up the Poſſeſſion of that Iſland; I have notified, on that Account, to the King of *England*, by the *Sieur Courtin*, That my Deſign being not to keep that Crown, when it is ſubdued by my Arms, I ſhould be ready to reſign it to Prince *Charles of Lorrain*. This Overture may ſerve very much to remedy the Uneaſineſs, which might be occaſion'd by ſo great a Settlement in the *Mediterranean Sea*; and I would have you informed thereof, that you may make uſe of it, as occaſion ſerves, whether the States ſtart this Difficulty to you themſelves, or whether the Remedy which I propoſe, were communicated to them by the King of *England*: For the reſt, I pray God to take you, my Couſin, into his Holy and Worthy Care, and you *Mellieurs Colbert*, and Count *d'Avaux*, into his Sacred Protection.

Written at *St. Germain en Laye*, the 25th of February, 1677.

LETTER

*From Monsieur de Pomponne to the
Ambassadors.*

Dated February 25. 1677.

Gentlemen,

THE Dispatch which the King sends you, does so amply inform you of his Majesty's Intentions, that there is nothing left for me to add thereto. The Haste with which I find myself oblig'd to prepare for the Journey, which the King is to undertake tomorrow, does not allow me Time to answer some Articles of your last Dispatches; but I shall do it exactly, by the first Post: I desire you, in the mean while, to be always perswaded of all the Sincerity with which, I am, Gentlemen, entirely at your Service.

LETTER

*From Monsieur de Pomponne to the
Ambassadors.*

Dated February 25. 1677.

Gentlemen,

HIS Majesty's Dispatch so fully answers your Letter of the 4th, that I have nothing to add thereto: I refer till next Post, the answering of those of the 12th and 16th.

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of the Mareſc. d'Eſtrades, &c. 247

Our Letters will inform you ſhortly without doubt, of the great Succeſſes of his Maſteſty's Arms: He is to ſet out after tomorrow, notwithstanding the extreme Badneſs of the Weather, in Order to put himſelf at the head of his Armies, in the Low-Countries; you will hear, at the ſame time, That he has equally ſurmounted the Rigour of the Season, and the Arms of *Spain*, in the moſt important Places of *Flanders*. I am, &c.

L E T T E R

From the Ambaſſadors to the King.

Dated *Feburary 26. 1677.*

S I R E,

AT the time, when we thought to enter upon the Negotiations, a Difficulty was ſtarted to us, on the part of the Mediators, who have receiv'd Orders from the King their Maſter, not to treat with the Ambaſſadors of the Elector of *Brandenburg*, by the Mediators of any other Perſons. This Accident ſtopp'd us on a ſudden; but we heard, yeſterday, that the bad Effects of it were taken away, that the Mediators were to be this day, in the ſame Place, where the Ambaſſadors of *Brandenburg* are to hold an an Aſſembly with all the Allies; and, that they would there receive the Powers of thoſe Ambaſſadors: So that the ſaid Ambaſſadors of *Brandenburg* will not act by Mediators, ſince they themſelves will be preſent, and the Difficulty which remains, as to the Precedency, and Title of Excellency, will not be met with on this occaſion. Sir, This induces us to hope, that we muſt,

to morrow exchange our Forms of Power, with the Ambassadors of *Brandenbourg*.

Monsieur Beverning came to see us the day before yesterday, as he promis'd us ; but he advanc'd nothing, and gave us no occasion to say any thing to him ; apparently, he will first see all the Preliminaries finish'd : He only told us two things, which we think are of Consequence enough to give an Account to your Majesty.

First, That his Opinion was, That no Proposals should be given in Writing, because of the Delays, and all other Inconveniencies which attend that sort of Procedure ; and he also told us, that after the first Compliments paid to the Mediators, in order to give them our first Proposals, it would be very practicable, that we should visit one another, and discourse about our own Affairs ourselves ; because he was persuaded, we should determine more in a Quarter of an Hour, than the Mediators would do in a Month

The other thing he told us, is, That he was of Opinion, we should make our Proposals Separate, on both sides ; that is to say, that we should make one, at this instant, only for the States, afterwards for the Emperor, and the other Allies, accordingly as they should give in theirs. What we may judge from this Proceeding of *Monsieur Beverning* is, that he is not yet, perhaps, inclin'd, or rather, that he is not empower'd to conclude any thing Separately ; and, that there is something which hinders him : But, forasmuch as he is a judicious Person, and foresees, that in the Sequel, the States, perhaps, will be oblig'd to make their Treaty Separately ; he puts himself in a Condition of doing it, whenever he shall think fit ; nevertheless, so as the Alliés may not perceive him to take any other Measures, than those
which

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which he concerted in the beginning. We are,
with a profound Reſpect,

S I R E, &c.

L E T T E R

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur
de Pomponne.

Dated February 26. 1677.

S I R,

WE ſent you, by the laſt Poſt, the Form of
Don Pedro Ronquillo, at the ſame Time that
we receiv'd it: We have ſince examined it, and
we obſerv'd therein certain things, which we be-
lieve ought not to be diſpens'd with, as the Paſ-
ſage, in which it is expreſs'd; *Por tanto confiando*
enteramente que todos juntos, y cada uno en particular
tendroy's atencion al mayor bien de Chriſtiandad, &c.
And alſo another Paſſage of the like Nature; ſo
that we ſpoke of it to the Mediators, and gave
them to underſtand, That no Prince can have ſo
juſt a Right as the King, to aſſume to himſelf the
univerſal Care of the Repoſe of Chriſtendom, af-
ter the Steps which his Majeſty has made, in
order to procure it; but, that we follow'd the
Form, which all the Parties had agreed to; and,
that we very much doubted, that Don Pedro Ron-
quillo would depart from it. The Mediators
found we had Reaſon on our ſide, and told us,
yeſterday, that Don Ronquillo had conſented
that that Cauſe ſhould be amended: They
brought us, this day, the Form of the Power of
the Ambaſſadors of Denmark, wherein we alſo
found ſome Difficulty, about a Perſon join'd
L 5 therein,

therein, who had not the Character of an Ambassador. The Mediators are still of our Opinion in that Matter; so that, we doubt not, but to morrow, or the day after, the Exchange will be made, and we are informed by the said Mediators, That all the Allies were preparing to give in their Proposals by *Tuesday*. We do as much on our side, and we shall give them in Separately, according to our Agreement with Monsieur *Beverning*, and we believe, the same will be of Service to the King. We are, &c.

L E T T E R

From the King to the Ambassadors.

Dated February 27. 1677.

Cousin, Messieurs *Colbert*, and Count d'*Avaux*; The Conference, you the Marechal d'*Estrades* sent me word, that you held with the *Sieur Pesters*, as well as what was wrote to you, by the *Duchess of Zell*, chiefly occasion this Dispatch. Forasmuch as I have reason to suspect, the Prince of *Orange* does not look upon the Overtures you made him, as an absolute Secret; and that, therefore, the same being reported abroad, the Ambassadors of *Sweden* would believe, I should enter into a Negotiation without them: I have judg'd it expedient, by the Information you shall give them of my Thoughts, to prevent the Complaints which they make about it: You may tell them, upon this Account, That I was willing to put you into a Capacity to answer the Proposals, the Ambassadors of the States might make you; that I doubted not, but the Exchange of some of the Places, which I possess,

possess, and the Preservation of that Barrier which they would fix against *France*, would make the first Conditions: That to shew my Sincerity for a Peace, I would admit of Expedients as to both, if *Spain* would hearken to a general Accommodation: But in case they are averse to it, and that *Holland* should be dispos'd to make a separate Agreement with me; I thought fit to remove by a Cessation of Arms (such as I observed to you) the Mistrust they may have of the entire Ruin of the Low-Countries.

You may observe to the Ambassadors of *Sweden*, That in both of these Proposals, I had particularly in view the Interest of their Master, since that in a general Accommodation with the House of *Austria*, I would not have treated without assuring his Satisfaction; and that in case *Holland* treats separately with me, I may be in a condition to act with such Force in *Germany*, as that I would very soon re-establish the Interest of *Sweden*, and my own there: And it was for this Reason, that I spoke only in this Proposal of *Flanders*, and said nothing of the Empire, nor even of *Philipsburg*, because my Intention was to apply myself absolutely to succour *Sweden* in *Germany*, when I should be disengaged from a War with *Holland*. You may impart to them what I write to you, as Answers which I have prepared for you, to the Proposals of the States, and not as Overtures, about which you explain'd yourselves to the Prince of *Orange*: You may tell them at the same time, That when I enjoin'd you to discover my Thoughts to them, on that Affair, I gave the same notice to Monsieur *Courvin*, to make it known as occasion requir'd, to the King of *England*. Perhaps, the Prince of *Orange* will not so soon disclose the Secret he was entrusted with, as that you shall not have time enough to

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speak

Speak about that Affair to the Ambassadors of Sweden. Take Care to enjoin them the same Secrecy, and to encourage them to approve of my Resolutions, as having Orders to explain yourselves thereupon, when you shall have occasion to answer the Proposals of the States.

You may judge well enough, by all the Conduct which I have prescrib'd you, That my principal Design is to hinder the Ambassadors of Sweden from complaining that you were entring into a Treaty without their Participation. The same Reason obliges me to inform you, after what manner you are to deal with them, in case the Duke of Zell should send any trusty Person to treat with the Mareschal *a'Estrades*. 'Tis requisite you should tell them, That the Affinity between him and the Duchess of Zell; made him think of entring into some Negotiation with the Duke her Husband: That I have approv'd of it, because I believ'd it might be advantageous to the King their Master; but that I enjoin'd you, at the same time, to give an account of it to them; that it appears to me more advantageous, than to draw off that Prince by a Neutrality from the Party of our common Enemy, which is the only one at this Day, that can relieve Denmark; and when he can no longer afford Assistance to that Crown, it will have no longer Reason to expect any, either from Spain, or from the Elector of Brandenburg; That thus the King of Sweden would be in a capacity to end, advantageously, the War he is engaged in against Denmark by a Treaty of Peace; by which means, he would be at liberty afterwards, to carry all his Forces into the Empire, and happily to repair the Losses he has sustain'd there: That the first Order I have given you, before you enter upon this Affair, was to take their Opinions; because 'tis very reasonable
you

you ſhould act in concert with them, about an Affair wherein the King their Maſter has the principal Interſt.

I am apt to believe, That they will embrace this Offer with Delight; ſince Sweden will be rid of its moſt dangerous Enemy in *Lower Germany*, when it ſhall be aſſur'd of the Houſe of *Lunenburg*, and be ſtrong enough of itſelf to reduce *Denmark*, and the Eleſtor of *Brandenburgh*. I cannot doubt, but this Secret will have a very good Effect with the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden*; and that they will find themſelves equally obliged by the Notice you ſhall give them of two Affairs, of which I inform you by this Diſpatch.

Your Letters of the 12th and 16th inſtant, give me to underſtand, That you have almoſt ſurmounted the Difficulties of the Preliminaries, and that you have already the Full Powers of the States in your Hands: This Example may ſpeedily oblige all the Parties to enter upon the Negotiations: You may accept of the Propoſal for putting the Claim of the Ambaſſadors of *Denmark*, into the Deed of Non-Prejudice; but you ought to take care, that the Mediators may be made thorowly ſenſible at this Conjunſture, how many facile Methods you have laid down, in order to promote the Negotiations of Peace, in regard it would be to call in Queſtion a Cuſtom ſo undeniably eſtabliſh'd.

Since the writing of this Diſpatch, I receiv'd yours of the 19th inſtant, and that of the Mareſchal d'Eſtrades, whereby he gives me an Account of what he has treated with the Secretary, whom the Duke of *Zell* ſent to him: I agree with him, touching all the Advantages, which may redound to me, from the Neutrality of his Maſter; and you may ſee that I have already thought of granting him Subſidies: Of all the Conditions he demands,

demands, that only which relates to the Places he would retain in *Bremen*, perplexes me: I cannot, without the Consent of the King of *Sweden*, enter upon a Proposal of the like Nature, how advantageous soever I think it might be to him.

So that the Method I would take, is, That you should insinuate, as it were of yourselves, to the Ambassadors of *Sweden*, the Advantage he would gain by drawing off the Duke of *Zell* from the Side of his Enemies: I do not tell you the particular Reasons of it, you know them well enough; and the Envoy of that Prince has mention'd the chief of 'em: You may afterwards shew them, That this Accommodation cannot be made, unless that Prince designs to keep part of his Conquest in the Dutchy of *Bremen*. You may represent to them, That the giving up of part of their Losses, would make them recover all the rest, and put them into a Capacity of making new Conquests, either in *Denmark*, or in the Territories of the Elector of *Brandenburg*.

If they concur with these Sentiments, and approve that you should treat with the Duke of *Zell*, you may then tell them, That you will make use of the Friendship you observe between the Marechal d'*Estrades*, and the Duchess of *Zell*; and by that means carry on the Negotiation. If you have their Consent, I shall be sufficiently authorized, to take away from the King of *Sweden*, all Cause of Complaint, that I have treated without his Knowledge; and you may judge how advantageous the Success of that Affair would be to my Service: All that I fear is, that notwithstanding the Ambassadors of *Sweden* may be persuaded, yet they durst not enter into any Engagement, without giving an Account thereof to the King their Master; and
that

that forasmuch as the Answer would require a very long time, I should lose the Benefit I might receive from the Overture, which has been made to the Mareſchal d'Eſtrades; so that I should have a great deal of Reason to desire, That the said Ambassadors would take upon them, to empower you to give some Hopes to the Duke of Zell, that the King their Master might enter into some Negotiation with him, upon his Pretensions; and that they would authorize after this manner, what you should give to that Prince. Endeavour as much as lies in your Power, to incline them to a Negotiation, which may be of a common Interest, both to me, and their Master. For the rest, I pray God, &c.

Written at St. Germain en Laye, the 27th of February, 1677.

LETTER

From the Ambassadors to Monsieur de Pomponne.

Dated March 2. 1677.

SIR,

WE have already inform'd you by the last Post, of the two New Difficulties which have been formed by the Allies; one in favour of the Ambassadors of Brandenburg, as to the Refusal the Mediators made, of receiving the Full-Powers by a third Hand; and that has ceas'd by the Expedient, of which we wrote to you: The other subsists still, which is the Clause the Ambassador of Denmark added to his Full Power, by which the King his Master gives to him, and Count Anthony, Monsieur Petkum for a Colleague, without

without any Character, either of Ambassador or Plenipotentiary; and that, in Terms so captious; that altho' the said Collegue has no Power; either to intervene in any Conference with us, or to sign any Deed; nevertheless, they will always give Opportunity to the King of *Denmark*, to disallow what his Ambassadors have done, without the Concurrence of Monsieur *Petkum*, who is entirely devoted to the House of *Austria*. The Mediators, the Allies, and even the Ambassadors of *Denmark* own, there are no good Grounds to maintain that Clause; and the latter only excuses himself upon the express Order he has thereupon receiv'd from the King his Master; so that we shall easily find means to pass over it, and secure ourselves, either by a Protestation, or by an Act which the Mediators shall give us, from all the Prejudice which the King's Service may receive from that Clause.

The said Allies have since our last, renew'd another Difficulty, which appears somewhat better founded: They declare, they can't allow of the Protestation the Ambassadors of *Sweden* have made, That the Term of Two Months, in which every one is obliged to bring new Full Powers, shall only commence from the Day that they have a free Passage for their Couriers: Some of the Allies were also very glad, that *Sweden* had furnish'd them with this Pretence of Delay, and propos'd to others, to make a Manifesto, to lay the whole Blame on *France* and *Sweden*: But Monsieur *Beverning* having declared, that he had Orders from his Masters, no longer to delay giving his Proposals; a Resolution was taken among 'em, that every one should deliver his on the Day that the Mediators should agree upon with us, and the latter being come to ask whether we were ready, we assur'd them, that the next day

we

we would carry them ours: 'Tis true, we were of a different Opinion, from them, as to the Manner of giving them, and we maintain'd (according to our Orders) That that of writing is extremely tedious, and that if they were deſirous of a ſpeedy Peace; nothing ought to be propos'd, but by word of Mouth: But Monsieur *Bewetning* having told us himſelf, That as to the principal Points of his Propoſal, relating to the Re-eſtabliſhment of Commerce; which would take up many Articles, he would ſend them to the Mediators, in form of a Letter, to help their Memory, and after that firſt Step, (which ſhould not be made a Precedent) they ſhould no longer treat by Writing: We alſo thought we could not exempt ourſelves from giving our firſt Propoſal in the ſame manner, by declaring to the Mediators, That we deſign'd to make none for the future, but by Word of Mouth; and we believe that every one will eaſily follow that Method: Neither Sir, can we forbear annexing to our three Principal Propoſals, two others, one for what relates to *Denmark*, which ſhall be founded upon the Treaty made at *Copenhagen*, in 1660, and inſiſt that every thing which belongs to the Crown of *Sweden*, by virtue of that Treaty, may be reſtored thereto; the other, for what concerns the Elector of *Brandenburg*, who, altho' comprized in the general Propoſal, relating to the Emperor, and all the Princes of *Germany*, who are in War, nevertheless, urges that his Intereſt may be treated ſeparately; but our Propoſal, with reſpect to him, will only be a Copy of that which relates to the whole Empire, that is to ſay, the Re-eſtabliſhment of the Treaties of *Weſtphalia*. We hope to ſend you by the firſt Poſt, both our Propoſals, and thoſe of the Allies.

Sir,

Sir, You are sensible, That we can make no Instance in favour of Prince *William* of *Eurtemberg*, nor of the Protestations upon the Character of the Duke of *Lorrain*, which the King has given in his Passports to Prince *Charles*, till we have first receiv'd Orders from his Majesty.

Monfieur *Beverning* told us, that he would set out on *Wednesday* or *Thursday*, to visit the Prince of *Orange*, in his Passage from *Groningen* to *Wesel*, where that Prince is to confer with the Elector of *Brandenburg*: He has induc'd us to hope, that at his Return, it will be our own Faults, if we don't advance the Negotiations of Peace, by frequent Conferences among us, without any Interposition. We are most humbly, Sir, entirely devoted to your Service.

LETTER

L E T T E R

From the Ambaſſadors to the King.

Dated March 5. 1677.

S I R E,

Y Eſterday we receiv'd the Diſpatch, with which Your Maſteſty was pleas'd to honour us of the 25th, *ult.* which informs us of Your Intentions, as to what Differences remain'd at that time, touching the Full Powers: However, you have been acquainted by our preceding Letters, That not only thoſe Difficulties are all terminated, by the acquieſcing of thoſe who rais'd them in what Cuſtom has eſtabliſh'd, except that which relates to the *Sieur Petkum*; but likewiſe that it was agreed on all Sides, to deliver into the Hands of the Mediators, the 3d Inſtant, the firſt Propoſals, in order to attain to a Treaty of Peace. This has alſo been done, and we hope to receive this Day, thoſe which concern us, and to ſend them to Your Maſteſty: But whether the Mediators are taken up, in cauſing Copies of them to tranſcrib'd, or that they do not think they ought ſo vigorously to urge an Exchange of 'em; we have not yet had their new ones, and we can only ſubjoin to this Letter our Propoſals, of which there are two exactly like 'em; one for the Emperour, and the Princes of Germany, his Allies, the other for the Eleſtor of Brandenburg only; tending to the Re-eſtabliſhment of the Treaties of *Weſſphalia*, in their firſt State, with a Clause which hinders us from making hereafter ſuch Inſtances in favour of Your Maſteſty's Allies, as you ſhall think juſt and reaſonable, to the end that if you give us any Orders, either for the
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Enlargement of Prince *William*, or for such Prince of *Germany*, whose Interests it will be suitable to Your Majesty's Service to support, we may have Authority to do it. We have also been obliged to give a Proposal for *Denmark*, which tends only to the Re-establishment of the Treaty of *Copenhagen*, for the Execution whereof, Your Majesty gave a Guarantee: We deliver'd them all to the Ambassadors of *Sweden*, before we gave them to the Mediators, and they have done the same to us: But forasmuch as their Proposals contain'd a very long Recital of all the Conduct which *Sweden* has observed, since the beginning of this War, as well by Mediation as Action; and whereas in the main, they only desire as well as we, the Re-establishment of the Treaties of *Westphalia*, and that of *Copenhagen*; we did not think it proper, to swell our first Packet with so many Papers of no use to Your Majesty's Affairs.

Monsieur *Beverning* is not yet set out, to meet the Prince of *Orange*, who also defers his Journey to *Wesel*, because the Elector of *Brandenburg* continues indispos'd with the Gout and Stone, in the City of *Hamburg*. This Illness gives the Allies a great deal of Uneasiness, who apprehend a Delay of their Designs thereby.

The Bishop of *Munster* has no less Uneasiness, about a Negotiation which he suspects between Your Majesty, the States, the Elector of *Brandenburg*, and the Duke of *Zell*; and he has caus'd his Secretary to write to one of ours, to desire a full Account of what he knows of the Matter, assuring him, That the Notice he should give him of it, should not be prejudicial to Your Majesty's Affairs: But forasmuch as we believe, we ought not to free him from that Apprehension; we only caus'd an Answer to be made him, that no Satisfaction could be given as to what he desired, but
that

of the Mareſc. d'Eſtrades, &c. 261

that the firſt Propoſals were put into the Hands of the Mediators the 3d Inſtant.

Sire, There is all manner of Reaſon to hope, That the Expedient which Your Maſteſty makes uſe of, touching *Sicily*, will very much facilitate the Negotiation of Peace; and if we were permitted to lay down our Arguments before Your Maſteſty, we ſhould before have taken the Liberty to tell You, that there was left us no better means, for freeing ourſelves from the preſſing Inſtances, with which we were threatned, on the part of all the Allies, in favour of Prince *Charles*; but the moſt effectual means we deſire of Almighty God, for the Concluſion of a good Peace, is, That it would pleaſe him to preſerve Your Maſteſty's Sacred Perſon, and give Your glorious Deſigns all the proſperous Succeſs, which we ſo earneſtly wiſh for. *Sire, &c.*

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated March 5. 1677.

S I R,

WE cannot yet ſend you, by this Poſt, the Propoſals of the Allies; for, altho' the Mediators ſhould bring them to us before the Departure of the Courier, yet we ſhould not have time to get them tranſcrib'd; but it will certainly be done by the next.

Sir, You have already receiv'd the Forms of the Full Powers of the Ambaſſadors of the States General, and thoſe of the Emperor, and the E-
lector


lector of *Brandenburg*. We now send you that of *Don Pedro Ronquillo*, who desires, that the Title of Brother, should be added to that of Cousin, which we have granted: We also annex to this Letter, a Copy of those we are obliged to bring, with the Titles that his Majesty is to give to the Kings and Princes, whose Ambassadors are in this Assembly. Sir, be pleas'd to cause them to be dispatched, even without accepting that of *Denmark*: For, tho' the Ambassador of that Crown has not yet given us his Writing, in the manner we desire; Nevertheless, 'tis not to be doubted, but the Difficulty, which remains, will be adjusted to our Satisfaction; and we know that he has already us'd his Interest, as have all the other Ambassadors, to procure new Full Powers, such as we desire. The Ambassadors of the States-General have told us, That they have already receiv'd those which relate to us.

Sir, There are Grounds to hope, That the King's March will forward our Negotiation: The same has caus'd a great deal of Astonishment and Fear in this Assembly; and we believe, all *Europe* will be no less surpriz'd to hear, that neither the Forces of so many Enemies, nor the Rigour of the Season, are capable to hinder his Majesty from making great Conquests: But at what a dear Rate does *France* purchase them! Since it is at the Peril of so precious a Life, and it were to be wish'd, that we could shortly preserve it, by a good and speedy Peace, which would give him occasion to enjoy in Tranquillity, so inexhaustible a Stock of Glory: Is it not sufficient to have infinitely surpass'd all his Predecessors, and to leave succeeding Kings no Room to flatter themselves, that they shall ever attain to an equal Power? But his Enemies ought rather to undeceive themselves, of the vain Hopes
they

they have grounded on their Powerful League ;
And ſince the Continuation of the War only af-
fords perpetual matter of Glory to his Maſteſty,
and Confuſion to them ; 'tis to be believed, that
they'll put an end thereto, by accepting of the
reaſonable Conditions, which he is willing to
grant. We are,

S I R, &c.

End of the Second VOLUME.



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